

VAS NIGHT — Bangladeshis using solar filters to watch the eclipse in Dhaka on Tuesday. For people in some parts of South and Southeast Asia, a total solar eclipse was visible, as in the time-lapsed photo above, when the moon passed in front of the sun. Page 4.



German Economists Urge Easier EU Rules

By Alan Friedman
International Herald Tribune

Germany's six leading economics institutes recommended Tuesday that the conditions that countries are supposed to meet in order to qualify for European monetary union be softened.

The German institutes also predicted a slowing of French growth next year to a rate that most economists say would jeopardize any hopes France has that it will be able to stick to Europe's single currency timetable.

The rate forecast for 1996 — of just 2.25 percent — is well below the official French government assumption of 2.8 percent contained in the 1996 draft budget. Economists say that growth is already slowing in France and that anything less than 2.5 percent next year would make it very difficult to achieve its twin goals of slashing both

unemployment and its budget deficits enough to meet single currency criteria.

The idea of relaxing the criteria contained in the Maastricht treaty on economic integration runs counter to the uncompromising stance adopted by top German government and central bank officials.

It was immediately rejected Tuesday by the German finance minister, Theo Waigel, who said "the German government will hold to the strictest interpretation of all of the convergence criteria."

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, speaking on the eve of what could prove to be a delicate first visit to Bonn on Wednesday by President Jacques Chirac of France, insisted in a speech to bankers, meanwhile, that conditions must not be relaxed in any way and that Europe's future single currency be "just as stable as the Deutsche mark."

The Kohl-Chirac meeting Wednesday comes amid

growing German fears that France under Mr. Chirac's presidency is proving less and less committed to European integration.

Some top German officials say in private they doubt France will qualify for monetary union in 1999, making it preferable to delay the start of a single currency by a year or two.

On the political front, Mr. Chirac's suspension of the Schengen agreement on open borders among European Union members and his go-it-alone approach on nuclear testing has worried many senior Germans.

On Tuesday, in an unusual statement that reflects the sensitivity of Franco-German relations, the Bundesbank's chief economist Oskar Lässig said that more progress was needed in EU political union. "While the EU is advancing

See EUROPE, Page 8

Jiang, at the UN, Warns Against Meddling Over Taiwan and Rights

By Lawrence Malkin
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — In a tough speech to the United Nations, delivered just hours before meeting with President Bill Clinton to smooth relations between Washington and Beijing, President Jiang Zemin warned Tuesday that China would not allow other countries to dictate its internal policies, especially on Taiwan.

"No country has the special privilege of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries or imposing its will upon others," he said from the rostrum of the UN General Assembly in the final day of its 50th anniversary celebrations.

"Certain big powers, often under the cover of 'freedom,' 'democracy' and 'human rights,' set out to encroach upon the sovereignty of other countries, interfere in their internal affairs, and undermine their national unity and ethnic harmony."

As for Taiwan, he said, "there is only one China and Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese territory." He warned that China's people were confident that they could "make the reunification of their motherland a reality" despite any foreign interference.

Although these views were not new, their restatement at the UN cast a shadow over the Clinton meeting, whose logistics have been a matter of acute sensitivity on both sides.

The fact that the meeting was held at all was seen as a significant advance.

The Jiang-Clinton meeting lasted two hours, and American officials called it successful in broadening the debate on many issues. The two leaders parted without making a joint statement or joint appearance before the press.

But the day was true to form for Mr. Jiang, who likewise issued a hands-off warning to Mr. Clinton just before their first meeting in Seattle in 1993, when China placed billions of dollars worth of orders for Boeing jet airliners, allowing Mr. Clinton to claim credit for them to Boeing's workers.

Mr. Clinton, through a spokesman, characterized the encounter Tuesday as "a very good, positive meeting, the best he has had."

Mr. Jiang was quoted as saying that he was confident that "we have begun a process that will lead to a serious dialogue." The two agreed to meet again at Osaka.

See JIANG, Page 8

Separatists Surge Before Quebec Vote

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

QUEBEC — Days before a referendum on Quebec's secession from Canada, resurgent separatist forces in the French-speaking province appear within reach of a narrow victory. The suddenly real possibility of a rupture in the confederation has stunned the Canadian government.

Public opinion polls in the last several days gave the separatist option an even chance or better of winning a majority in the provincial referendum Monday.

A survey by the Montreal-based Groupe Léger and Léger issued over the weekend said 45.8 percent of voters planned to vote "yes" to separation while 42.2 percent would vote "no," with 12 percent still undecided.

A survey by the Angus Reid Group issued late last week put the decided vote at 51-49 for the separatist option. The margin of error in both polls is 3.1 percentage points.

The news sent Canada's stocks, bonds and currency sharply downward Monday as investors around the world confronted the turn in public opinion. For months and even in recent weeks, surveys had shown the separatist campaign lagging by as much as 10 points.

Quebeckers are being asked this year to say "yes" or "no" to the proposition that the province of 7 million should become sovereign and offer the rest of Canada an economic and political partnership that has been likened to the European Union.

Such a declaration would be extra-constitutional, and Prime Minister Jean Chrétien has declined to comment explicitly on whether the federal government would, or could, recog-

See QUEBEC, Page 8

Cost of Reforms Brings a Bitter Ukraine Winter

By James Rupert
Washington Post Service

KIEV — When it's October in Ukraine, the forests turn from gold to bare, the winds begin to cut — and back in the Soviet era, the heat used to come on.

Temperatures at night have dipped below freezing, but there is no heat in Ukraine's cities this month: the government is hoping to keep it off until mid-November. Ukraine is hunkering down for its second winter of tough economic reforms and too little money to keep the country heated and lit.

Kiev residents bundle up in chilly apartments and step carefully through the blackness of unlighted streets. Officials have warned that this winter will bring at least as many blackouts as last, when, in a daily game of power roulette, Ukrainian engineers cut off whole towns and cities for hours each day to try to spread the available power nationwide and prevent a system crash.

Ordinary Ukrainians, who have seen their utility rates soar this year, worry about how they will pay for the little heat and light available.

Communist and socialist politicians opposed to the reformist president, Leonid Kuchma, have played to public anxiety over energy, and the government is trying

See UKRAINE, Page 8

AGENDA

U.S. Embassy In Jerusalem?

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives and the Senate adopted legislation Tuesday requiring that the U.S. Embassy in Israel be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by the end of the century. The vote was 374 to 37 in the House and 93 to 5 in the Senate. The measure now goes to the president.

Supporters of the bill wanted action completed before Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin visits Congress on Wednesday for a ceremony commemorating the 3,000th anniversary of King David's entry into Jerusalem.

The legislation would require that the embassy be moved by May 31, 1999. A likely presidential veto was avoided when backers agreed to give the president the ability to delay the move six months at a time if he declared it contrary to U.S. national security interests.

President Bill Clinton and his predecessors have opposed moving the embassy because it might upset negotiations for a Middle East peace agreement.



RALLY ROUND THE FLAG — A Palestinian atop a building in Jenin in the West Bank readying for the arrival of Palestinian police forces after the Israeli forces pull out on Wednesday, ending 28 years of occupation.

PAGE TWO
In Russia, Matriarchy Endures

THE AMERICAS
Dole Revisits Clinton Policies

ASIA
Rumors on Arms Sales

EUROPE
Tapie Admits to Perjury

Dow Jones
Up 28.18
4783.66

S&P 500
Up 1.38
1,388

The Dollar
DM 1.3945
Tues. close 1.388

Yen 100.50
Tues. close 99.945

FF 4.8885
Tues. close 4.8895

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International Classified Page 8.

EU Rejects Asking Court To Stop France's N-Tests

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — The European Commission announced Tuesday that it would not take France to court to stop its nuclear testing in the Pacific, asserting that the underground explosions posed no significant threat to human health.

The decision by the European Union's executive agency as well as a statement by President Jacques Chirac that France planned to reduce the number of remaining detonations helped defuse the political tension that the tests had provoked between France and its European allies, officials said.

"It demonstrates that the French government has listened to the skepticism," Ritt Bjerregaard, the EU environment commissioner and a fierce critic of French testing, told the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Many members of Parliament, although largely satisfied by the commission's environmental conclusions, continued to criticize French policy nonetheless.

Pauline Green, leader of the Socialist Party group, said the "unwanted and un-

necessary" tests were simply "late 20th century colonialism" that showed disrespect for Pacific peoples.

Mrs. Green also dismissed the announcement by Mr. Chirac in New York late Monday that France would probably conduct only four more tests, for a total of six, down from the originally planned eight.

"Thank you Mr. Chirac, but that will be four too many, because we don't want any," she said.

Jacques Santer, the commission president, went before the Parliament to announce the decision, which was made at an extraordinary commission meeting in Brussels on Monday night.

He said the level of radiation found by commission experts who visited the site recently was just 1/500th of allowable norms.

Even more important, Mr. Santer said scientific data provided within the last two weeks by Paris had shown that radiation would remain within those norms even in a worst-case scenario in which the atolls where the tests are conducted collapsed.

See TESTS, Page 8

Map of Ocean Floor Opens a Window on the Mysteries of the Sea

By William J. Broad
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Until now, 71 percent of Earth was not as well mapped as the surface of Venus. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has corrected the situation, unveiling the first good map of the ocean floor.

"It's like being able to drain the oceans and look at the Earth from space," said Dr. David T. Sandwell, a geophysicist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, who helped make the new map. "We're having a data feast. It really is a time of celebration."

At a news conference here, Dr. Sandwell and Dr. Walter H.F. Smith of the ocean agency revealed a large multicolored map of the 71 percent of Earth that underlies the oceans. Scientists say the map opens a major new window on the sea and its mysteries.

Already, a rush to exploit the new map is under way. Fishermen want to find undersea mountains that produce upwellings of deep, nutrient-rich water that feed swarms of fish. And industries want to find the kinds of rocks that overlay oil fields and the kinds of volcanic eruptions that form undersea deposits of copper, iron, silver and gold.

Previously, seabed maps were generally made with the aid of surface ships that bounced sound waves off the bottom to get a glimpse of the wilderness below. With much artistic license, such scattered readings were drawn into seabed renderings.

The new map is far more accurate and is based in part on secret navy data recently declassified in a post-Cold War peace dividend. From an orbit 500 miles (800 kilometers) high, a navy satellite in the 1980s made gravity measurements over the world's oceans as part of a quiet effort to increase the accuracy of long-range missiles fired from submarines.

With the navy's cooperation, the ocean agency turned the gravity data from that \$80 million mission, as well as recent readings from a European satellite, into a global map of the sea floor that reveals all kinds of plains, fissures, ridges, mountains, volcanoes and riddles that had been hidden until now in the sunless depths.

"The improvement is dramatic," said Dr. William F. Haxby, a founder of satellite mapping at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University.

Of great importance to scientists is that the new data are starting to revamp parts of plate tectonics. This widely accepted theory holds that the earth's surface is made up of a dozen or so plates that float on a sea of molten rock and grind past one another in earthquake spasms. The intersections of those plates that are now being found sometimes look quite different from what had been envisioned.

Dr. Jian Lin, a geophysicist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution on Cape Cod, said the new data "will almost certainly change our thinking about the active geological processes in the world's deep ocean basins."

So too, the new map is seen as important for climate studies and investigations of global warming, since mountain chains and other seabed features play important but poorly understood roles in regulating currents and circulatory patterns in the deep ocean.

Dr. Gregory Neumann, an earth scientist at Johns Hopkins University, said the new map "brings us one step closer to understanding the processes that drive our planet."

The glimmer of a new approach to mapping ocean floors came in 1978 with the space agency's launching of Seasat, a satellite that worked three months

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Raising Children on Their Own / 'It's Our Men Who Are Weak'

In the New Russia, Mothers Bear an Old Burden

By Alessandra Stanley
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — The collapse of the Soviet state has changed everything in Russia, except the relationship between the sexes. Expectations are low, but divorce rates remain high and the numbers of single mothers, either divorced or never married, keep growing.

Yelena Polyakovskaya, 32, has two small children, by two fathers, and never really expected either man to stay or help her financially.

"People tell me I'm so strong, such a heroine," she said of her struggle to hold down a job as a television reporter while raising children. "I'm not strong," she said. "It's our men who are weak. They seem to have no sense of responsibility at all."

In a trend that is as unmistakable to sociologists and social workers as it is distressing, millions of maids, factory workers and university professors alike have grown inured to raising their families without men. Instead, they have come to rely on mothers, sisters and aunts in the kind of matriarchal society — and downward spiral of poverty and limited horizons — that in the United States has become a hallmark of its poor urban areas.

Here, however, paternal absence and neglect is a reality shared widely by Russian women, regardless of background, aspirations or income.

"As I understand it, in the United States, single mothers are mostly teenagers with very low education," said Marina Kiyenya, 35, a professor of Spanish who started a support group five years ago for single mothers like her. "Most of our single mothers have a university degree; some are very active in their professions."

She, too, detects something deeply wrong with the way men and women relate in her country. "Seventy years of Soviet rule taught men to be selfish and passive," she said. "The biggest problem I see is the total lack of responsibility of our men."

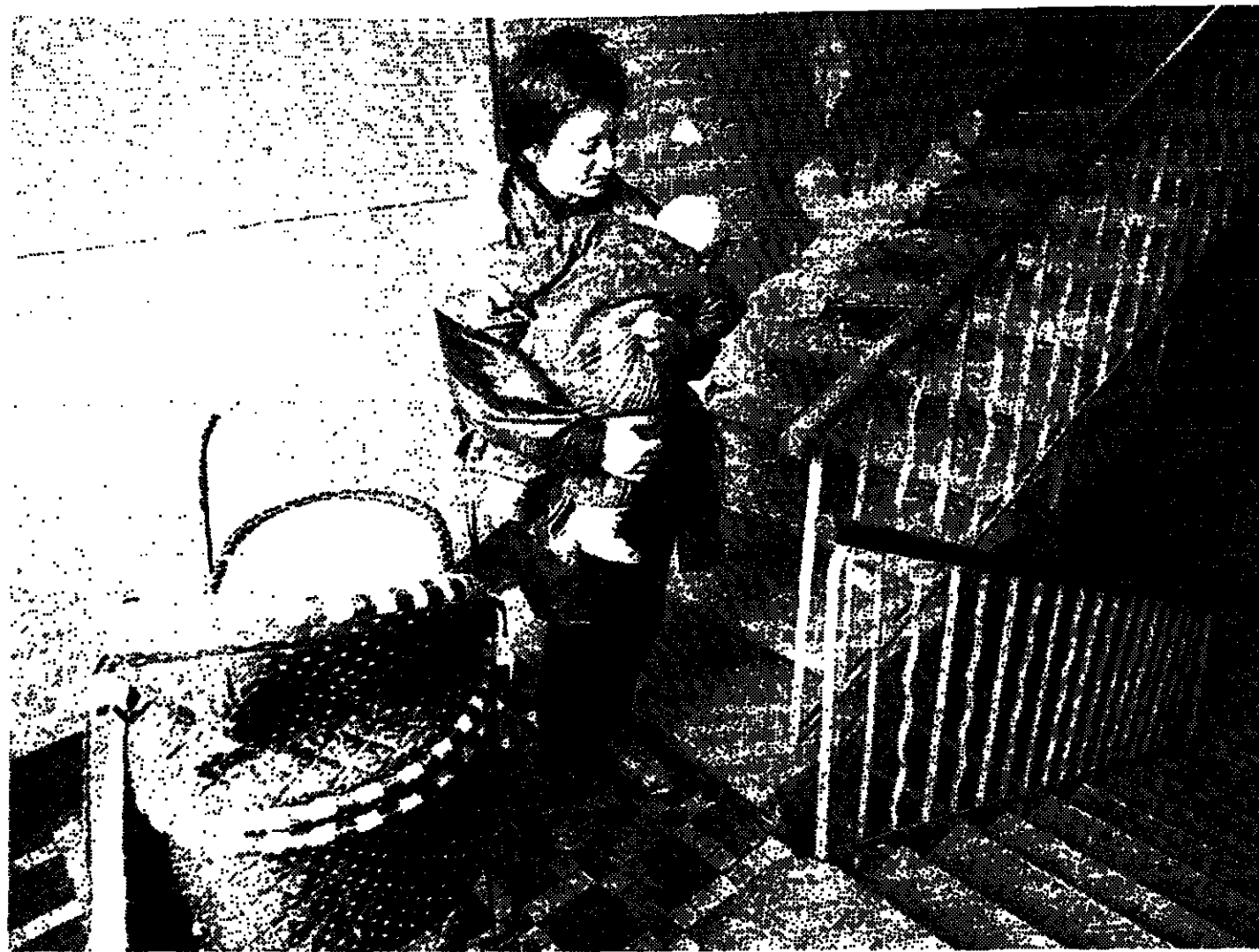
Even in Communist days, the unhappiness of Russian families was hard to hide. The divorce rate in the 1970s was 46 percent (now it is 51 percent), and alcoholism, though never officially quantified, was blamed.

Communism gave women the right, and necessity, to work as equals, but a notion of male superiority clung despite 70 years of official propaganda. Women worked at their jobs, then did nearly all the housework and child-raising. Men did not help, and were not expected to help. They were expected to drink, and they did.

Sociologists blamed Soviet life, its regimentation, oppression and lack of individual freedom, for men's alcoholism and apathy to work and family. Nowadays, many people blame democracy, or rather, the economic free fall many Russians find themselves in.

"There is so much economic uncertainty and real fear," Ms. Kiyenya said. "Men feel humiliated that they cannot provide for their families, and they just walk away."

She said her own story was typical. "When I got pregnant," she said, "my boyfriend promised to marry me, then he changed his plans and disappeared." Her daughter is now 10.



Yelena Polyakovskaya, abandoned by her husband, carrying one of their children down the stairs from her Moscow apartment.

One thorn of Russian society is that while single mothers complain of isolation and social disapproval, men who abandon their families, or even several families, do not appear subject to much censure.

"It's a strange thing, but fathers who don't pay child support are not ill-favored by public opinion," said Alexander Sinelnikov, a researcher at the State Institute of the Family. "His friends say that it is her own fault for throwing him out. And if a mother goes to the police to try and force him to pay up, well, police officers are men, and they tend to side with the father."

Ms. Polyakovskaya lives with her 6-month-old baby, relying on friends and baby sitters to watch him when she is at work. The father, an unmarried journalist, has never seen his child. Her 6-year-old son, Simeon, is being raised by his grandmother and great-grandmother in Kiev. Ms. Polyakovskaya says she hopes to bring him to Moscow, but cannot afford train fare to visit him.

She loves her job covering music and ballet, but it is ill-paid. In her one-room apartment, she sleeps on a fold-out couch next to the baby's crib. An ironing board serves as a desk.

But like many women raising children

alone, she said she does not want to marry again.

"My life is difficult," she said, "but God, if I had to come home from work and clean, cook and iron for a husband who keeps telling me I am doing it wrong, it would be even worse."

Few Russians harbor much sentimentality about marriage.

Nina Vasilyeva, 40, a single mother who is twice divorced, runs a matrimonial agency for Russian women seeking American husbands. Called Russian Romance, the agency matches American men who seek traditional wives with Russian women who want a dependable husband. There are dozens of such agencies in Russia.

"American men are more polite, they don't drink as much, and they accept responsibility for their families," Ms. Vasilyeva said of her American clients' reputations among her Russian clients, many of whom are single mothers.

Ms. Vasilyeva left her first husband after he became the leader of his local Communist Party organization and he began acting like a tyrant at home. She divorced the father of her son, an unemployed alcoholic, after he went to jail for drug dealing.

In addition to her matrimonial agency, which she runs out of her apartment, she works as an office manager in a French photo agency, and makes \$1,300 a month, enough to raise her 5-year-old son and pay her ex-husband's \$250 monthly rent — the price she pays to keep him at bay.

A teacher turned business executive, Ms. Vasilyeva says women are adapting better to Russia's new market economy than most men.

"In Soviet times, our men had it easy," she said. "They went to work, but they didn't have to work hard, they put in two hours and spent the day smoking, drinking and playing chess, then came home and lay on the sofa. Women did everything else. We were already used to working hard."

"Men are having problems," she said, "because nobody wants to pay you for doing nothing anymore."

COMING UP

Fidel V. Ramos insists that he has no intention of staying in office as president of the Philippines beyond 1998. He wants to manage a golf course, he says. But no one seems to believe him.

Dini Scrambles To Keep Power
He Seeks a Few Friends

Reuters

ROME — Prime Minister Lamberto Dini was fighting for a fistful of votes Tuesday to avoid defeat in a no-confidence drive that has plunged Italy into one of its worst political crises since World War II.

A two-day debate on a no-confidence motion put forward by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi began in the Chamber of Deputies. The vote was expected Thursday.

On paper at least, Mr. Berlusconi's center-right Freedom Alliance and its unlikely allies from the Marxist party, Communist Refoundation, have enough votes to topple the government, Italy's 54th since the war.

A poll by Reuters showed that 316 of the 627 eligible deputies supported the motion, 309 were against it and one was undecided. The speaker, Irene Pivetti, does not vote.

"The man in gray from the Bank of Italy is still convinced he can win," the newspaper Corriere della Sera said of Mr. Dini, a former central banker who has been in office since January.

Mr. Dini has rejected calls from the center-right to resign before vote to allow a more orderly parliamentary search for a new interim government that could lead Italy to an election after the passage of next year's budget.

But many commentators predicted that the numbers were so tight that a general election, three years ahead of schedule, was now in the cards. Defeat for Mr. Dini could mean a December election, while victory would lead to polls next March, they said.

Mr. Dini was installed with a cabinet of unelected technocrats after the collapse of Mr. Berlusconi's cabinet in December.

Mr. Berlusconi, who has pressed constantly for rapid

elections, brought the no-confidence motion after the removal last week of Justice Minister Filippo Mancuso in a no-confidence debate in the Senate instigated by the center-left.

Mr. Mancuso's ouster was prompted by steps he took against Milan magistrates who ordered Mr. Berlusconi to stand trial on corruption charges.

Several scenarios could be played out. All appear to lead to an early election, either in December or March.

One is that Mr. Dini loses. If so, he will hand in his resignation to President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro. Mr. Scalfaro could then ask someone else to form a new government while he decides when to dissolve Parliament and call elections.

Or, given the fractious nature of the current Parliament, Mr. Scalfaro could decide to dissolve Parliament quickly and ask Mr. Dini to lead Italy to an election in a caretaker capacity.

In another scenario, Mr. Dini scrapes by. He could then remain in office to complete his limited program. He has always said that his government was nonpartisan and that he would resign as soon as his reforms were completed. He also is committed to nursing the 1996 budget through Parliament before he gives up his office.

Some political analysts said Mr. Dini could win the vote and resign anyway and seek quickly to form a stronger government through a cabinet reshuffle.

A third option — which appears unlikely — is that Mr. Dini will address Parliament during the debate but resign before the vote is taken.

Other prime ministers facing confidence votes in the past have read the writing on the wall.

The options for Mr. Scalfaro in this case would be the same as if Mr. Dini loses the vote.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Beijing Airport Will Be Expanded

BEIJING (Reuters) — China gave new details of a major expansion plan for Beijing's main airport, saying annual passenger capacity would more than triple to 35 million in the next decade. A spokesman for China's Civil Aviation Administration, He Xiangqian, was quoted by China Daily last week as saying that billion yuan (\$843 million) would be invested in the airport expansion, but he gave few details.

Xu Cunxin, director of the Capital Airport construction unit, was quoted by the Xinhua press agency on Tuesday as saying the project would take 10 years to complete. Mr. Xu did not identify the contractors.

Kangaroo Meat Can Be Dangerous

SYDNEY (Reuters) — Australian doctors have issued a warning that undercooked kangaroo meat could carry a disease whose effects can range from mild influenza to spontaneous abortion and can even be potentially fatal.

The warning followed an outbreak of the toxoplasmosis disease in late 1994 after rare kangaroo meat was eaten by a group of people at a Christmas party in a restaurant in Brisbane, Queensland.

A study of the outbreak reported in the latest edition of the Communicable Diseases Intelligence journal said the disease was evident in 12 people who attended the function, including a pregnant woman who went into premature labor.

St. Paul Bus Strike Appears Settled

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (AP) — A tentative settlement was reached in the two-week-old Minneapolis-St. Paul bus strike that shut down public transportation for 100,000 daily riders.

If members of the striking union approve the new contract, buses could be back in service by Friday. Nearly 2,100 driver mechanics and other workers walked out on Oct. 9 over issues including wages and plans to use more part-time drivers. The last bus workers' strike in the Twin Cities was a 25-day walkout in 1969.

Correction

A dispatch in the Business/Finance section of Tuesday's editions on Glencore International's agreement to buy 15 percent of Metaleurop SA contained an inaccurate price for stock in Metaleurop. The shares fell 2 percent, to 58.90 francs.

A Storm Brews Over a Dane's Tart Remarks
EU Delegate's Comments in Diary Are Denounced at Home

Reuters

COPENHAGEN — Danish politicians denounced the nation's EU Environment Commissioner, Ritt Bjerregaard, on Tuesday for a diary due to be published this week that says unflattering things about Jacques Chirac, Helmut Kohl and other leaders.

Excerpts from Mrs. Bjerregaard's book, "The Commissioner's Diary," about her first months as an EU commissioner, appeared in the Danish press on Monday and sparked a heated

reaction. Mrs. Bjerregaard, 54, often embroiled in controversy during her previous career as a Social Democrat government minister, has little good to say about Mr. Chirac in the diary.

"On the whole Chirac gave a very bad impression," she wrote. "I don't even think Chirac will grow in stature with his post."

Her view of Mr. Kohl was also negative. "I did not get any impression at all of the man, he was not paying any attention at

all," she wrote. "I don't think he even noticed whom he was talking to."

Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen, other government members and opposition parliamentarians were unanimous in their criticism.

"We now risk that Ritt Bjerregaard with her book destroys both her own and Denmark's chances of influencing European environmental policies," Mr. Petersen told Berlingske Tidende. "That is a very high price to pay."

Mrs. Bjerregaard said the purpose of her book was to demystify the workings of the Brussels commission.

"I don't think I'm being unfair or exposing anybody," she said in an interview in Politiken. "I wrote it to make the commission appear more human."

She also writes unfavorably about Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of Spain, Commissioner Martin Bangemann of Germany, European Affairs Minister Michel Barnier of France and many top Danish politicians.

She describes relations between Mr. Chirac and the European Commission president, Jacques Santer, as bad.

"Chirac is totally indifferent to Santer and treats him sloppily and superficially," she wrote.

Described as stylish, outspoken and stubborn, Mrs. Bjerregaard, a convert to the idea of closer European cooperation after years of stout opposition to Brussels, has often aroused controversy.

She was dismissed as edu-

cation minister in 1978 and as Social Democrat parliamentary group leader in 1991, each time after disputes over extravagant spending and luxurious habits regarded as inappropriate by her egalitarian-minded party.

She was accused by European parliament legislators, at confirmation hearings last January, of having an arrogant style and of failing to do her homework.

At the same time, she had a bitter disagreement with the Danish prime minister, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, who had nominated her for the commission job.

Mr. Rasmussen insisted that Mrs. Bjerregaard relinquish her Danish ministerial pension during her time in Brussels in line with precedent set by her predecessors as Danish commissioner.

Mrs. Bjerregaard stressed in the diary that she eventually gave in — not because she was forced to but out of generosity. "I wanted to help Poul," she wrote. "He is not very highly regarded, and opinion polls are bad."

Sudan Asks UN to Ease Libya Ban

Agence France-Presse

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Sudan has asked the United Nations to provide an exception to its air embargo on Libya to help 300,000 Sudanese being expelled, an official said.

The official, Taj Eddin Mahdi, head of Sudan's expatriate bureau, said Tuesday had asked the UN to allow Sudanese planes to land in Libya to repatriate the deportees.

Mr. Mahdi said Sudan made the request through diplomatic channels two weeks ago but the United Nations had not responded.

The UN slapped an air embargo on Libya in 1992 when it refused to hand over to the United States or Britain two Libyan suspects in the bombing of a Pan American World Airways jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 in which 270 people died.

"This is not a backdoor attempt to violate the embargo although we sympathize with the suffering of the Libyan people," Mr. Mahdi said.

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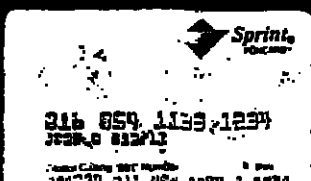
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THE AMERICAS

A Private Rocket Fails on Launch

Its Payload Is Destroyed In Blow to Space Industry

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The first commercially built orbital rocket to be launched from a National Aeronautics and Space Administration facility on the Virginia coast exploded shortly after liftoff, destroying a payload of 14 scientific experiments and dealing another blow to the fledgling commercial space industry in the United States.

The \$75 million, five-story Conestoga rocket was blown up by NASA controllers 45 seconds into its flight when it began veering off course, officials said. NASA officials and representatives of the rocket's builder, EER Systems Inc., said Monday night that they had not determined what had caused the 100-ton rocket to change its angle of ascent.

"There are dozens of possibilities as to what happened," said a company spokesman, Mike Bryant.

The rocket, launched from the NASA Wallops Island Flight Facility on the Delmarva Peninsula, turned into smoke and flaming debris over the Atlantic Ocean about 12 miles (20 kilometers) off the coast at an altitude of 25,000 feet, said a NASA spokesman, David Steitz. No one was injured.

"It was a beautiful liftoff. It looked great and then there was this major malfunction," said Mr. Steitz, who witnessed the explosion. Mr. Steitz said he saw three of the rocket's four strap-on booster engines ignite and detach from the rocket shortly before the explosion.

Coast Guard boats trailed the Atlantic on Monday night for debris that might yield clues to the cause of the malfunction. Although the rocket's payload module was not found, Mr. Steitz said, it "normally would not survive this type of explosion."

The explosion is a setback for scientists, business leaders and state officials who are trying to transform the Wallops Island facility, a frequent target of budget-cutters in recent years, into a commercial spaceport that backers say would eventually attract

dozens of private launchings each year and pump as much as \$50 million into the economy of the rural lower peninsula.

The Conestoga launching took place from a \$5 million complex that EER built on NASA property. The company's launching pad and tower are the first such commercially built facilities in the United States.

EER officials said that they would investigate the explosion with NASA and the Department of Transportation, which regulates commercial space activities.

The explosion was witnessed by a crowd estimated by NASA officials at 5,000 that had gathered in a marshland on the edge of the launching area.



Solid rocket boosters corkscrewing out of control after the commercial Conestoga rocket blew up off the Virginia coast.

Dole's World Tour: Clinton Policy Is Revisited

By Helen Dewar
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Senator Bob Dole is leading the Senate on a world tour of political problems that President Bill Clinton faces in conducting foreign policy — from Cuba to Israel, with almost daily stopovers in Bosnia, and hardly a pause to repack.

Last week, Mr. Dole, the Senate majority leader, won passage of a watered-down bill to tighten U.S. sanctions on Cuba and raised the ante in his criticism of Mr. Clinton's policy toward Bosnia. On Monday, he opened debate on legislation to force the United States to move its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by 1999.

With at least 67 co-sponsors, the bill

is on track for passage by the Senate, and probably by the House as well.

Like Mr. Dole's Cuba bill and his support for lifting the arms embargo on the Muslim government in Bosnia, the Jerusalem legislation has drawn opposition from the administration, which argues that all three proposals would complicate its foreign policy initiatives.

In every area, Mr. Dole — the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination — was positioning himself on the popular side of issues where Mr. Clinton is caught between domestic political pressures and what he sees as his responsibilities as a world leader.

On Cuba, Mr. Dole argued to permit Cuban-Americans, a potent force in both the Florida presidential primary and general election, to sue foreign cor-

porations that are profiting from property that was confiscated from them when Fidel Castro gained power.

On Bosnia, Mr. Dole rises above the argument over committing U.S. troops to enforcement of a peace accord by challenging the administration to make a better case for it, by stressing the importance of lifting the embargo and by focusing on vulnerable points in the administration's handling of the whole issue.

On the embassy issue, Mr. Dole opposed legislation to move the embassy as recently as 1990. He has now chosen the side that is more popular, especially with Jewish voters, for whom the embassy is a symbol of U.S. devotion to Israel.

In a letter to Mr. Dole earlier this year, Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher said he would recommend that Mr.

Clinton veto the Jerusalem embassy bill because it would disrupt the current peace process in the Middle East and "unconstitutionally invade exclusive presidential authorities in the field of foreign affairs."

In his foreign policy struggles with Mr. Clinton, Mr. Dole often loses or settles for substantially less than he wants, as he did last week when several Republican moderates joined most Democrats in blocking the lawsuits-provision of the Cuba sanctions bill.

On Bosnia, he won passage of legislation to end U.S. participation in the embargo but stopped short of forcing a vote to override Mr. Clinton's veto, saying he was willing to wait to see whether NATO air attacks were successful in producing a peace settlement.

Will Welfare Plan Work? Michigan Says 'Maybe'

By Peter T. Kilborn
New York Times Service

LANSING, Michigan — An axiom of the welfare debate holds that the way out of poverty is a job, and no state has put more of its poor into jobs than Michigan.

Three years after the governor, John Engler, began recasting the welfare system in his conservative Republican vision, his program is being cited as a model by congressional Republicans, who are putting the final touches on legislation that would upend federal anti-poverty policy.

Mr. Engler and his social services director, Gerald H. Miller, were influential lobbyists to Congress in shaping the legislation, which would slash up to \$100 billion of federal aid for the poor and give states block grants to run welfare programs of their own design.

Here in Michigan, nearly 30 percent of welfare clients earn a paycheck, more than three times the national average. Today's welfare caseload of 190,000 is the lowest in 21 years. The state Department of Social Services says it is spending \$100 million less for welfare than it would if so many people did not have jobs.

State officials say that the program, besides saving money, helps keep families together. Built on carrots and increasingly punitive sticks, the revisions allow more working fathers to live with their families without disqualifying the household from welfare.

But if Michigan gleams as an example of what a state can accomplish without federal regu-

lation, it also offers cautionary lessons. For all its innovation, the state's welfare system has made only limited and precarious gains, say economists, sociologists and officials from other states who have come here by the dozens to study the system.

Moreover, Michigan has come up against the same economic reality that confronts the nation's work force. For more

"They're sowing the seeds of further cuts in social spending."

than 20 years, as inflation has nibbled away at wages, employers have not made up the loss. So a working wage today is often not a living wage, and the idea of a job as an antidote to welfare is no longer assured.

"It has certainly worked," Alan Werner of Abt Associates, a consulting firm based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, said of the Michigan welfare program. "It doesn't look like clients are suffering. It doesn't look like poor people are getting poorer."

Mr. Werner, whose firm was hired by the state of Michigan to monitor the program, said it had "increased employment and earnings and reduced welfare dependence — but only by a few percentage points."

"The scale of change is quite small," he added. Both the House and the Senate versions of the welfare bill, whose differences are to be reconciled by a conference com-

mittee, require that states have 50 percent of their welfare recipients working by the year 2000.

In his original effort to get people off welfare through working, Mr. Engler, who was elected in 1990, at first encouraged schooling and training that could lead to well-paid, durable jobs. But the state welfare bill, in part because of job-training costs, remained stubbornly high — about \$7 billion a year.

Last year, Mr. Engler ordered most welfare recipients to look for work immediately, and now 55,000 people are working, double the number before he took over. The trouble is that most of the jobs available pay so little that they cannot lift a family out of poverty and to the point where it no longer needs state aid.

In this way, experts say, Michigan's welfare-to-work system shows signs of hooking the working poor to the dole, much as the federal welfare system is accused of hooking generations of the nonworking poor to the dole.

Even these gains are fragile, analysts add, because they come on the wings of Michigan's soaring economy, the nation's most volatile. Over the last two decades, the state's unemployment rate has seceded from less than 5 percent now to more than 15 percent.

A recession could flood the welfare rolls, said Stephen Gold, director of the Center for the Study of the States at the State University of New York in Albany.

"You can see they're not going to have enough money,"

Mr. Gold said. "They will say, 'Well, we can't raise taxes, so we will have to cut spending more.' They're sowing the seeds of further cuts in social spending."

State officials say that Congress, too, threatens their success through a provision in the welfare bill, supported by President Bill Clinton, that would set a cap of perhaps five years on how long states can use their

block grants to support a welfare family. The measure would rob the Michigan program of what state officials say is a crucial feature: its assurance that welfare clients can collect benefit checks indefinitely until they make a living wage. "No awful caps!" said Mr. Miller, the social services director. "The issue is getting people to work and getting people out of poverty."

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Away From Politics

• Strapped by a tight budget, the Internal Revenue Service canceled a planned line-by-line audit of the tax returns of 153,000 randomly chosen individuals and businesses. (LAT)

• Yolanda Saldivar, the founder and onetime president of the fan club of the young Tejano music star Selena, was convicted of murdering the singer in a Corpus Christi, Texas, motel room last March. (NYT)

• Shifting wind pushed a plume of poisonous gas leaking from a railroad tank car in Bogalusa, Louisiana, closing an evacuation center and keeping about 1,500 people out of their homes. (AP)

• A Bulgarian was shot and killed at the entrance to his country's embassy in an apparent nugging attempt. A spokesman said Evgeniy Mikhailov, 21, was with a group of friends near the embassy when the robbery attempt began. "They were trying to take his jacket," the spokesman said. (Reuters)

• The New York Post plans to start a Sunday edition next year, the second time in recent years the paper has tried publishing seven days a week. (NYT)

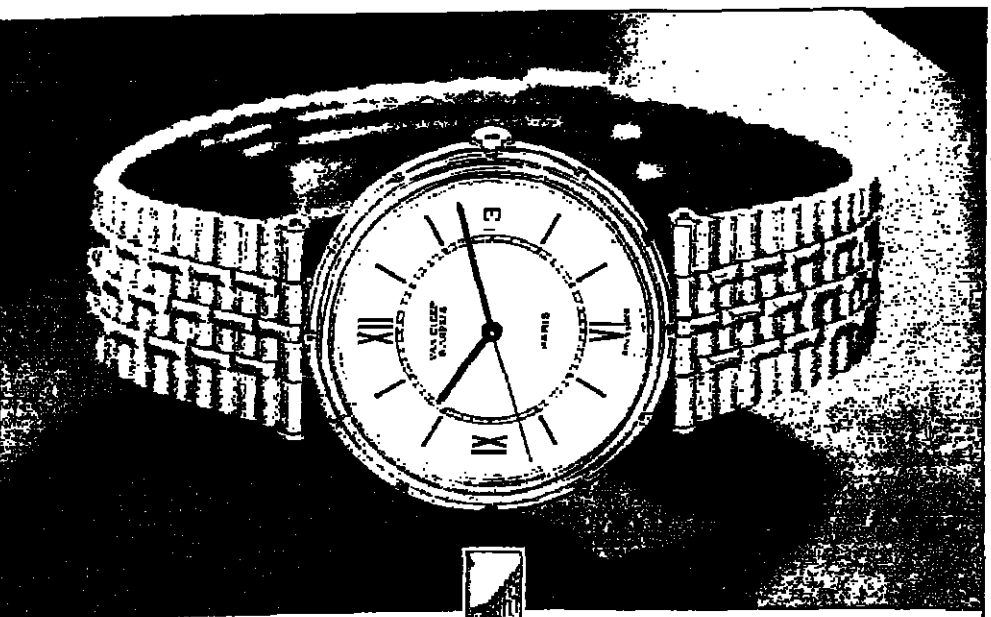
• The U.S. Border Patrol has moved to fire five agents in a case that began with an agent hitting an illegal immigrant on the head with a rock and escalated into a conspiracy to cover up the incident, the agency said. (LAT)

DEATH NOTICE

The friends of
KEN BUCK

deeply regret to announce his death at Washington, D.C., on October 8, 1995.

If you wish to participate in a memorial gathering of his funeral services, scheduled for Saturday, November 11 at 2:00 p.m. please call Sarah Franco-Parker at 424-0848 (no charge).



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POLITICAL NOTES

Gingrich Salutes Boys Town

BOYS TOWN, Nebraska — The bleak, gray skies and stiff, cold wind may have evoked Charles Dickens, but Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia, the House speaker, looked more like Spencer Tracy as he toured Boys Town, the institution for troubled youth he has held up as an "alternative to the modern welfare state."

He strolled through a museum tracing Boys Town's 78-year history surrounded by young boys and girls, his arms resting on the shoulders of the two children walking beside him, much as Mr. Tracy's version of founder Father Edward J. Flanagan did in the 1938 MGM movie "Boys Town."

Mr. Gingrich sparked a minor uproar late last year when he said Hillary Rodham Clinton should "go to Blockbuster and rent the Mickey Rooney movie about Boys Town" to understand his calls to overhaul the welfare system and his suggestion that orphanages would be better than having children remain with abusive and neglectful parents.

"Orphanages are far better than having children driven into a lake, put in a dumpster or thrown out a window today," he told the more than 550 residents of Boys Town who gathered to welcome him.

The House-passed welfare measure that will be wrapped into the big spending-and-tax cut bill the House is to vote on Thursday would bar federal funds for children born to welfare recipients and to unwed teen mothers. (John E. Yang, WP)

Espy Inquiry: A Tangible Result

WASHINGTON — In the first tangible result of the investigation of former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, a lobbyist and prominent figure in Republican political circles has agreed to plead guilty to making illegal contributions to Mr. Espy's brother, the lobbyist's lawyer said.

The lobbyist, James H. Lake, is to plead guilty in federal court on Wednesday to a felony and two misdemeanor charges. The charges are significant in part because they are the first formal accusations brought in a 13-month investigation of Mr. Espy's relationship with large agricultural companies regulated by his department. (NYT)

Showdown Due in Budget Fight

WASHINGTON — The Senate Budget Committee has cleared legislation to overhaul Medicare and Medicaid, slash taxes and balance the budget, helping to set the stage for showdown votes in the Senate and the House this week on the heart of Republican efforts to remake government.

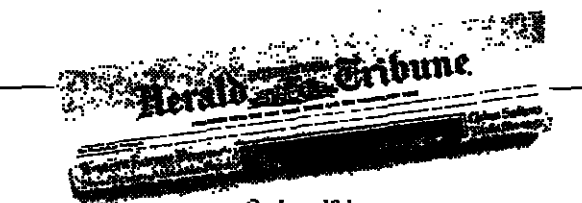
With no sign of a thaw in the budget war between Republicans and the White House, congressional leaders prepared to push their historic budget proposals through both chambers despite increasingly tough administration veto talk. Along strict party lines, the Senate Budget Committee voted, 12 to 10, to bundle the work of 11 different committees designed to help meet the goal of balancing the budget by 2002 and sent the package to the floor for action beginning Wednesday. (WP)

Quote / Unquote

Patrick J. Buchanan, the conservative commentator and Republican presidential candidate, as the United Nations celebrates its 50th anniversary: "I'd virtually say it's got to shape up or ship out. It's become a morally bankrupt institution." (AP)

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ASIA

The Day the Moon Ate the Sun and All Asia Watched

Reuters
ANGKOR, Cambodia — The magnificent 12th-century Buddhist temple Angkor Wat was shrouded in darkness on Tuesday as a total solar eclipse cast a rare shadow across a swath of South and Southeast Asia.

Millions of people from Iran to Indonesia watched the moon cover the sun. The moon's shadow first crossed the sun over central Iran just after dawn, then moved across Afghanistan, Pakistan and northern India.

The shadow, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) wide, then flitted over Burma, Thailand and Cambodia before racing across Vietnam, northern Malaysia and Indonesia. The central point of the eclipse fell just north of Angkor Wat.

Interest in the rare phenomenon was heightened by superstitions and forecasts by Asian soothsayers, who warned that the eclipse could bring doom or disaster.

At Angkor Wat, where thousands of locals and foreigners gathered with chanting Buddhist monks and dancers to witness the event, the eclipse was deemed to bring good luck.

According to folklore, which sees an eclipse as the moon eating the sun, it is a good omen if the sun moves away from the moon's "head," or top. Locals were heartened by the sight of the sun moving away from the moon's head after nearly two minutes of darkness.

No gunshots were heard from the top of the temple, despite earlier fears

that there would be volleys of gunfire.

The authorities said most soldiers and policemen around Angkor Wat and the other ancient temples in the Angkor complex were disarmed for the eclipse to prevent injuries from bullets fired to scare the moon.

In the town of Mac Sor, in northwestern Thailand, groups of Buddhist monks and throngs of schoolchildren wearing special protective sunglasses peered into the sky as a ring of bright light circled the moon for the eclipse.

Life came nearly to a standstill in major cities like Bangkok as people gazed at the sky, some looking through special glasses, others through exposed film or even sunglasses to avoid harming their eyes.

In India, the eclipse disrupted life as millions stayed away from work to dodge its reputed ill effects.

Streets in New Delhi and other cities were deserted and shops remained shuttered as the moon's shadow raced across a 1,800-kilometer-long band stretching from the Thar Desert in the west to the Bay of Bengal in the east.

At the Taj Mahal, in the northern town of Agra, which experienced a partial eclipse, about 2,000 tourists watched as the pearly marble of the mausoleum took on a steely tint.

But heavy rain and clouds robbed millions of Filipinos of a view of the eclipse. Especially in Manila, people contented themselves with watching

live television coverage of a partial eclipse over the cities of Davao and Cebu.

In Bangladesh, thousands scrambled onto roofs and beaches to watch the last solar eclipse this century despite superstition-related fears.

Many people, especially women, remained indoors believing the eclipse was a bad omen and to avert feared termination of pregnancies or fetal deformities. Some astrologers had advised against eating or having sex during the eclipse.

The National Astrologers' Federation has warned that Bangladesh could face a series of traumas, both natural and political, following the eclipse.



KASHMIR CRACKDOWN — Indian policemen arresting leaders of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front on Tuesday in Srinagar. The protesters were seeking UN help in the India-Pakistan dispute over the Kashmir region.

Sect Doctor Admits Making Toxic Gas as Trial Opens in Tokyo

Reuters
TOKYO — The first trial of a cult member for the gas attack in Tokyo's subway began Tuesday, when the sect founder's doctor admitted having made nerve gas and prosecutors called the attack a plot to head off a police investigation.

Although admitting that he made the sarin gas, Dr. Tomomasa Nakagawa pleaded not guilty to charges of murder and attempted murder stemming from the March 20 attack, in which 11 people died and thousands became ill.

He is also on trial for the murder of a former cult member.

About 5,000 people lined up for 56 public seats in the courtroom for the trial, the first directly linked to the attack.

Dr. Nakagawa, 32, personal physician to Shoko Asahara, leader of the Aum Shinrikyo sect, told the three-judge court

that he made the gas at a laboratory in the sect headquarters but was not aware there was a plan to use it.

Japan has no jury trials; judges issue verdicts and sentences. The maximum penalty for murder is death by hanging.

Dr. Nakagawa's testimony was expected to affect Mr. Asahara's trial, which is scheduled to open on Thursday.

Mr. Asahara has been accused of masterminding the attack and will also be tried for murder and attempted murder.

Mr. Asahara's lawyer, Shoji Yokoyama, said last week that his client would plead not guilty, contending that he was not aware of his followers' plan.

But Dr. Nakagawa said that was not the case.

"Asahara ordered the production of sarin in mid-March," he told the court.

"There is no mistake in the fact that I produced the sarin and that I sealed the liquid in plastic bags," he said.

But, he added, "I was not aware of a conspiracy to release the gas, although I knew sarin was a dangerous chemical."

Dr. Nakagawa's lawyer said his client admitted that he was involved in the murders but only as an accessory. The lawyer asked the court to reduce the charges to accessory to murder. Conviction on that charge would not bring execution.

For the first time, the prosecution stated publicly what it said was the sect's motive for unleashing the deadly gas.

"Asahara tried to plunge the central part of Tokyo into utter turmoil to head off expected police raids against his sect," said a prosecutor, Tadahiko Miyazaki.

The police had been investigating the cult for a series of incidents involving rebel followers who left the sect.

Report of Taiwan Arms Sale: Beijing Stirred, Paris Baffled

By Joseph Fitchett
 International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Complaints in Beijing about a possible French arms sale to Taiwan met official perplexity in Paris on Tuesday

as the French government said it had no idea what had prompted the report of a weapons deal in a newspaper in Taipei.

A presidential aide here denied that any new arms deals with Taiwan were in motion.

and said that it would be "provocative" for France to break a pledge it gave Beijing last year that it would no longer sell weapons to Taiwan or try to improve relations with it.

The spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Shen

Guofang, said in Beijing that China was "very deeply concerned" about the report in Taipei's United Daily News that a memorandum recently signed in France put future weapons

sales to Taiwan on a government-to-government basis.

French officials, asked whether the military had signed an agreement that provided a framework for arms sales without actually including one, said that any such accord would run counter to their policy.

France's 1994 pledge to cut off arms sales did not preclude steps to implement existing deals, including after-sales aspects of a Mirage fighter sale to Taiwan in 1992.

Any new military deal with Taiwan, officials in Paris acknowledged, would jeopardize the chances that Airbus Industrie, the European aircraft consortium, could snare a major contract in China.

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BRIEFLY ASIA

Seoul Says It Captured Spy

Puyo, South Korea — South Korean security forces captured a man they described as a North Korean agent and began searching for another suspected spy after a clash on Tuesday in which a police officer was killed.

The authorities said the spies infiltrated deep into South Korean territory after sneaking in two months ago. They were hunted down in the town of Puyo, 140 kilometers (87 miles) south of Seoul. One of the men was captured after being shot in the leg, and the other man fled into the hills. Tens of thousands of combat troops backed by helicopters and dogs began a manhunt.

It was the second reported infiltration by North Korean agents in a week. Last Tuesday, Seoul said a northern infiltrator in a frogman's suit was shot and killed as he crawled out of a river just south of the demilitarized zone dividing the two Koreas. (Reuters)

17 Die in Indonesian Train Wreck

JAKARTA — Up to 17 people were killed and 100 injured in Indonesia on Tuesday when an overnight passenger train left the rails in an area of ravines and volcanic mountains near the West Java town of Tasikmalaya.

Reports from the area 17 hours after the early morning derailment were confused. Some officials said eight carriages and two locomotives fell into a ravine in darkness. Others said three coaches and two locomotives tumbled about two metres down a slope only seconds after passing a bridge over a river. (Reuters)

Light Term Is Expected for Maid

ABU DHABI — The head of a United Arab Emirates appeal court said Tuesday that he expected the Filipino maid Sarah Balabagan to face a light prison term for killing her employer when a verdict is delivered on next week.

"You will hear a verdict on Oct. 30," said Sheikh Biy'a Bin Salih, head of Al-Ain Islamic Sharia appeal court. "I believe it will be a short prison sentence."

Ms. Balabagan escaped a death sentence when the family of the man she stabbed to death offered her demand for her execution in exchange for \$41,000 in blood money. (Reuters)

New Zealand and Maoris at Odds

WELLINGTON — The New Zealand government said Tuesday that the prime minister and governor-general would no longer attend Waitangi Day celebrations at the traditional site after Maori protests disrupted this year's ceremony.

Waitangi Day marks the signing in 1840 of the Treaty of Waitangi between Maori tribes, who arrived from Polynesia in the 11th century, and European settlers. In recent years, celebrations at the tiny township have been disrupted by Maori protest groups who accuse the government of not honoring the treaty, which promised them certain rights and privileges. (Reuters)

VOICES From Asia

Jiang Zemin, president of China, in an address at the United Nations: "There is only one China in the world, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese territory. The Chinese people have the ability and resourcefulness and confidence to overcome any interference and make the reunification of their motherland a reality." (Reuters)

Ramatesh Sarkar, an Indian scientist, on the eclipse of the sun in his country Tuesday: "It is a sight for the gods. It is the best solar eclipse I have watched in my entire life. The diamond ring effect was splendid." (AFP)

Mahmoud Mestiri, a UN negotiator seeking an end to the fighting in Afghanistan: "We want a cease-fire, even half a cease-fire." (Reuters)

World Bank Project In China Criticized

By Daniel Southerland
 Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The human-rights campaigner Harry Wu has accused the World Bank of extending at least \$90 million in loans to an irrigation project that may be benefiting several of China's forced labor camps.

Mr. Wu, a former political prisoner who was convicted of spying and expelled from China two months ago, said the bank made the loans to support China's Tarim Basin Project, but was actually servicing China's "gulag" prison system.

Mr. Wu said that seven large forced labor camps run by the Chinese Ministry of Justice and at least 14 smaller camps run by the People's Liberation Army were in the area encompassed by the irrigation project in remote Xinjiang Province.

Mr. Wu asserted that the World Bank project, designed to bring water to peasants, was also benefiting the labor camps and quasi-military farms.

"Maybe the Chinese were cheating the World Bank," Mr. Wu said at a news conference. "Maybe the World Bank never knew it. Whatever, we have to tell about this."

Mr. Wu, 58, an American citizen, spent 19 years in Chi-

nese forced labor camps before coming to the United States in 1985.

A spokesman for the World Bank, Graham Barrett, said it had a clear policy of not dealing with forced labor projects or with military organizations in any country.

Mr. Barrett said that if Mr. Wu's accusations could be substantiated, the bank would withdraw from the Tarim Basin project. "If Mr. Wu has hard evidence of forced labor in this bank project, we would like to see that evidence," he said.

"China does not tell us about its military installations and camps," Mr. Barrett said.

Mr. Wu said he had visited some of the camps in the project area in April 1994 but was not aware at the time that the bank had a project there.

Mr. Wu was arrested by the Chinese police in June after he tried to cross into Xinjiang from Kazakhstan to uncover evidence that products made in the forced labor camps are illegally exported by China. After two months in jail, he was convicted of spying and expelled.

A World Bank staff report on the Tarim Basin, dated July 31, 1991, which Mr. Wu obtained, does not mention forced labor camps or military-run farms.

Army Repels Tigers In Battle for Jaffna

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
COLOMBO — Sri Lankan troops preparing for the final thrust on the Tamil rebel-held north fought a big battle against rebels protecting the approaches to Jaffna city, the military said Tuesday.

The battle, involving heavy artillery, lasted several hours. The government forces, backed by the air force, finally repulsed the attack by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Neerveli, the military said.

Eighteen soldiers were killed and 42 wounded in a battle in which an estimated 30 rebels died, the military said.

Neerveli is eight kilometers (five miles) from Jaffna city, the jewel in the nation the Tigers hope to establish in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, which it says is the traditional homeland of the Tamil minority.

Jaffna is now almost within reach of an advancing army that is, according to diplomats, massing to launch an assault on it.

Three army divisions with a combined strength of around 21,000 troops are poised for the attack, a diplomat said.

But the military, which began the offensive Oct. 17 to recapture rebel territory in the north, was cautious.

"In the near future, we might take Jaffna," a military spokesman said. "I can't tell you exactly when."

An assault on the city would mark the decisive phase in a war in which the government says more than 50,000 people have been killed since it began in 1983.

The diplomats said they believed the struggle for densely populated Jaffna may result in a heavy loss of life on both sides, as well as among the civilian population. But its value as a psychological boost for government troops and a blow to rebel morale far outweighs the

risk of provoking international reaction against Colombo, the diplomats say.

The passage to Jaffna, though by no means clear, is now slightly open after battles on Sunday and Monday.

A military spokesman said 29 soldiers were killed in the battle Sunday around Palaly, a major government-held air base and headquarters of Sri Lankan troops on the Jaffna Peninsula.

Troops on the ground estimated the rebel casualties in that battle at about 75 killed and 150 wounded, the military said.

But the Liberation Tigers said in a statement that the battle, which reached a climax Sunday after six days of battle, ended with the army being beaten back by the rebels and withdrawing. It said that only 13 Tigers were killed.

The military said that at least 350 rebels and 76 soldiers had died in the offensive.

(Reuters, AFP)

Earthquake in Rural China Kills 29

Reuters

BEIJING — A strong earthquake hit China's rural, densely populated Yunnan Province on Tuesday, killing at least 29 people and injuring 100, officials said.

The early morning tremor, measuring 6.5 on the Richter scale, struck during a torrential rainstorm. The storm added to the misery of survivors and made rescue and relief work especially difficult in the rugged mountain province near the Burmese border.

Many people in Wuding and Luquan counties were still at home and were killed when their houses collapsed in the earthquake, which rocked the

region at 6:47 A.M., local and provincial officials said by telephone.

"Most were crushed to death in building collapses," a Wuding county official said.

"The epicenter was in a mountainous area, not in town, so the damage was not as extensive as it might have been. Mostly we've had single-story buildings collapse."

One of the dead and three of the injured were in the steel city of Panzhihua, in the neighboring province of Sichuan, the Xinhua press agency reported.

Television footage showed the wreckage of a mud-brick school that collapsed in the earthquake. It showed pictures

of young injured children and the body of a dead child in a hospital.

Northern areas near Wuding and Yuanmou counties suffered heavily from the earthquake, which hit eight other cities and prefectures in Yunnan, including the provincial capital of Kunming, as well as Panzhihua, the agency said. The national and provincial seismological bureaus sent teams to the areas to investigate the damage caused by the earthquake, it said.

Nearly 200 houses tumbled down on their inhabitants, killing at least 27 and seriously injuring 66, a seismological official said from Kunming.

EUROPE

Croatia
Demands
Return of
TerritoryBy Elaine Sciolino
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Croatia will use military force to retake the last slice of Croatian territory in Serbian hands if peace talks that open in Ohio at the end of this month fail to resolve the issue, President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia said Tuesday.

In an interview, Mr. Tudjman stressed that Serbia and Croatia were "close to a solution" for the peaceful return of the territory, known as eastern Slavonia, which is coveted by both sides because of its rich farmland and oil fields. But he made it clear that his patience was running out.

"The world should not deceive itself into thinking that Croatia will be prepared to postpone a settlement of this issue indefinitely," Mr. Tudjman said. Mr. Tudjman said his forces could retake the area in some days.

In the last two weeks, Croatia has moved thousands of troops in what may be a prelude to a military campaign that would risk drawing the army of President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia into a new spiral of violence.

"One may assume in a way that Milosevic would be involved" in such a military campaign, Mr. Tudjman said. "But nevertheless I think that the military operation would be a quick one, just as our recent operations."

In a ruthless offensive last summer that was tacitly approved by the United States, Croatian forces retook the region known as the Krajina, driving more than 120,000 Serbian civilians and troops from the area and unleashing a wave of terror that still goes on.

Bosnian Warning
President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia called Tuesday for parity between Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Army forces, saying it was the key to long-term stability in the Balkans, news agencies reported from New York.

Addressing the United Nations a week before scheduled Bosnian peace talks, Mr. Izetbegovic demanded a reduction in Bosnian Serb stocks of heavy weapons, which he said still threatened most Bosnian cities.

If this were rejected, he said, the only option would be to lift the embargo on Bosnia and arm the Bosnian forces.

(AFP, Reuters)



Bernard Tapie, the former politician and soccer club owner, appearing Tuesday in court in Douai, France.

Tapie Admits He Lied in Earlier Trial

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

DOUAI, France — Bernard Tapie admitted in court Tuesday that he had lied when he denied at his earlier trial that he had met the Valenciennes coach only after being accused of trying to fix a match.

But Mr. Tapie, the former owner of the soccer team Olympique Marseille, denied that there had been an attempt at a cover-up.

Mr. Tapie claimed that the

meeting had not been planned and that he had been forced to deny it took place because he knew that the police were trying to pin the blame on him.

Boro Primorac, the coach, who was later dismissed by Valenciennes, has always maintained that Mr. Tapie tried to talk him into telling the police that he had approached Marseille before the match in 1993 to agree on a tie, which would have saved Valenciennes from being re-

gated to the second division. Marseille won the game, 1-0, to clinch its fifth successive league title. Five days later, it won the European Cup.

Mr. Tapie, who served as urban affairs minister in the Socialist government of President Francois Mitterrand in 1992 and 1993, remained free pending his appeal and has admitted his fear of going to jail.

"On the 17 June at the head-

quarters of Bernard Tapie Finances, I meet Boro Primorac," Mr. Tapie testified. Mr. Tapie has appealed his two-year prison sentence, one year suspended, for ordering his general manager, Jean-Pierre Bernes, to offer three Valenciennes players 250,000 francs (\$50,000) each to throw the match.

(AFP, Reuters)

Police Detain 17 in Paris Bombings

Suspects May Belong to Muslim Insurgent Groups

The Associated Press

PARIS — The police detained 17 people Tuesday in connection with the wave of terrorist bombings that has rocked Paris, officials said.

The 17 were detained by the police under orders from Judge Laurence Le Vert, who is charged with investigating the bombings that have left 7 people dead and 160 wounded since July.

The detentions took place in Paris and in the Essonne region south of Paris, the officials said. They added that the police were continuing to search the homes of those detained.

The 17 suspects were being questioned but were not immediately charged.

The sources said those arrested might be part of radical Muslim insurgent groups operating in France.

Algeria's most radical armed organization, the Armed Islamic Group, has taken responsibility for some, but not all, of the bombings.

The series of bombings and bombing attempts began July 25, when an explosion in a regional subway train near Notre Dame killed 7 people and wounded 86 others.

The last attack was Oct. 17,

when a bomb exploded in a subway tunnel between the Musée d'Orsay and the Saint-Michel stations, wounding 29 people, 8 of them seriously.

The government has reacted by enforcing its surveillance of the French capital, bringing in 2,500 conscripts to help police and paramilitary guards patrol subways and sensitive points, including the Eiffel Tower and the Chateau de Versailles, south of Paris.

Islamic radicals in Algeria, formerly a French colony, claim that France is backing the country's army-supported regime, a charge France denies.

Armenia (Nuclear) Power Struggle

Defying West, Energy-Starved Nation to Start Reactor

By Steve LeVine
New York Times Service

METSAMOR, Armenia — This energy-starved nation, where most homes have electricity just hours a day, plans to restart a nuclear reactor here this week despite Western protests that it is unsafe.

Armenian officials say the plant meets international standards, and they reject U.S. claims that the reactor, which was closed in 1989 because of safety concerns, is unfit to withstand the area's serious earthquakes.

Instead, Armenian officials characterize Western objections as a reflection of East-West competition.

"This is the struggle for the market," said Vanik Nersisyan, deputy head of Armenia's Department of Atomic Energy. "This is an issue of the employment of the Western population."

Armenia's decision to restart the Metsamor plant centers on its dire economic circumstances and its intense nationalism.

A seven-year undeclared war with neighboring Azerbaijan has combined with post-Soviet economic chaos to close most Armenian factories. The upheaval has ravaged living standards, prompting an exodus that has reduced Armenia's population of 3.5 million by 20 to 30 percent.

In turning to the 407-megawatt Metsamor reactor as a savior, Armenia will rely on a Soviet

design that Washington considers among the world's most dangerous. U.S. officials cite the lack of a dome-shaped, concrete containment vessel that is standard on Western reactors. Without this feature, any radiation leak at Metsamor would simply escape into the region of Yerevan, the capital, where 2 million people live.

Metsamor sits on a rise overlooking a quiet plain of corn farms and pasture, with snow-topped mountains marking the horizon. It was built on an ancient site that archaeologists have traced back to the Bronze Age, in a village that some local historians say was the birthplace of the Armenian people.

The Soviets installed two reactors at Metsamor that together produced some 30 percent of Armenia's electricity. The plant was closed, however, in a period of anti-Soviet nationalism touched off by a calamitous 1988 earthquake. The earthquake, measuring 6.7 on the Richter scale, did not seem to damage Metsamor. But the deaths of at least 25,000 people and the destruction of 55 villages spawned a movement that branded Metsamor another threat to the Armenian people.

This made Metsamor a resonant issue among Armenians, whose history of survival through massacres is a national glue. The present reversal of thinking, seen in Armenia's emotional defense of Metsamor, reflects the survival question as much as its shutdown did six years ago.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

Sharping Wins, Loses

BONN — Rudolf Scharping, beleaguered leader of Germany's opposition Social Democrats, was re-elected unopposed on Tuesday as head of his party's parliamentary faction but saw the number of his supporters fall sharply.

Mr. Scharping, whose party recorded one of its worst postwar results in a state election in Berlin on Sunday, received the support of 190 Socialist deputies or 81 percent of participants compared to 98 percent a year ago.

He has been under pressure all summer as the party's ratings have fallen to postwar lows and his rival, Gerhard Schröder, has cut into his support.

Its plunge of almost seven points in Berlin, to 23.6 percent, was its worst-ever result there. Mr. Scharping faces a fight for the leadership at a conference in Mannheim next month. There are no other declared candidates for the post.

(Reuters)

Austrian Rightists Slip

VIENNA — The far-right Freedom Party slipped marginally in a fresh opinion poll, but support for the country's two coalition parties appeared firm ahead of December's general election.

After strong gains in earlier polls, Jörg Haider's Freedom Party — which has the strongest far right parliamentary representation in Europe — dipped two points to 25 percent, a Gallup poll to be published on Wednesday showed.

(Reuters)

González Senses Victory

MADRID — Defying opinion polls, Prime Minister Felipe González predicted Tuesday that his Socialist Party would win an early election he has been forced to promise for March and hinted he would be its candidate.

Mr. González, under increasing pressure over charges that he knew of a 1980s "dirty war" against Basque ETA rebels, shrugged off Parliament's imminent rejection of his draft 1996 budget, saying he would simply submit it again after the election.

(Reuters)

Army Guards Strasbourg

STRASBOURG — Troops rode as armed guards on buses and trams here Tuesday after several nights of stone-throwing and gasoline bomb attacks by youths.

Some 60 soldiers from the elite First Infantry Regiment were aboard public transport vehicles going through sensitive areas, mainly inhabited by North African immigrants, after attacks continued on Monday.

(Reuters)

Zaire Gets More Millions

KINSHASA, Zaire — The European Union is to spend \$119 million on projects to shore up Zaire's crumbling infrastructure, an EU statement said Tuesday.

The European Commission office in Kinshasa said the money would be aimed at improving living standards in the capital, the refugee-swamped eastern region of Kivu and the central region of Kasai.

European Commission officials described the package as humanitarian assistance, and added that it did not mark a resumption of structural cooperation. The EU suspended all but humanitarian programs in 1992, exasperated at the slow pace of political and economic reform.

(Reuters)

Calendar

European Union events scheduled for Wednesday:

STRASBOURG: European Parliament plenary session continues.

LUXEMBOURG: Meeting of European Union agriculture ministers continues with focus on exchange rate fluctuations.

KEHL, Germany: Monika Wulf-Mathies, regional development commissioner, speaks to the EU regional development institute.

BONN: Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac in informal talks discuss European affairs.

BRUSSELS: Social and economic committee starts a two day meeting.

Sources: Agence Europe, AFP

PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
HONG KONGEXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
LANDSCAPING WORKS

The Provisional Airport Authority (soon to become the Airport Authority) has been charged with developing and operating Hong Kong's New Airport at Chek Lap Kok.

Reclamation of the island is complete and construction of the Passenger Terminal Building, runways, aprons and other infrastructure works are on schedule for airport opening in April 1998.

The Authority intends to carry out extensive planting on the airport platform in order to establish a green and attractive environment for the benefit of passengers, visitors and the Authority's tenants and licensees. For operational reasons, all planting in airside areas will be restricted to grass.

The Authority wishes to pre-qualify contractors with experience in large scale landscaping works to tender for two major landscaping contracts for work at Chek Lap Kok. Applicants will be required to demonstrate their capabilities and experience on projects of a similar size and nature. They may pre-qualify for the following.

Contract 470 — establishment of grass on approximately 280 hectares of reclaimed land (mainly marine sand)

Contract 472 — establishment of trees and shrubs (mainly of seedling size) and ground cover plants over an area of about 63 hectares with provision of drip-line irrigation over part of this area.

Organisations and joint-ventures with a proven track record in the above works should address their requests applicants for pre-qualification documents by fax to:

The Project Director
Provisional Airport Authority Hong Kong
25th Floor, Central Plaza
18 Harbour Road, Wan Chai
Hong Kong

Pre-qualification — Landscaping Contracts 470 & 472
(Attention: Ms. Stella Fok)
Fax No: (852) 2802 8231
Tel No: (852) 2824 7724

Each Expressions of Interest must specify which of the contracts the applicant wishes to pre-qualify for. The deadline for submission is 10 November 1995, 12:00 noon (Hong Kong Time). Pre-qualification documents will be issued immediately upon receipt of the Expressions of Interest. The deadline for the return of the completed pre-qualification documents is 27 November 1995, 12:00 noon (Hong Kong Time). All submissions must be in English.

All costs associated with any submission in response to this notice are entirely the responsibility of the applicant organisation(s) concerned. The Provisional Airport Authority reserves the right to reject any application at its discretion and without explanation.



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INTERNATIONAL

New Arafat Script for Jewish Officials

Agence France-Press

NEW YORK — Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestinian authority, trying to charm key elements of the U.S. Jewish population, drew laughter and applause from community leaders during a speech.

"I am speaking from my heart," Mr. Arafat told about 50 delegates of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, an amalgamation of dozens of civic and religious Jewish groups in the United States, ranging from liberal to conservative.

The PLO leader put aside his prepared text "written by another hand," took off

his glasses and spoke for 45 minutes on Monday about the similar political and historic destinies of the Jews and the Palestinians have in common.

Mr. Arafat was in New York for celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. He told the United Nations on Sunday that he had "come to you with a heart filled with love and peace now that the olive branch has adorned the peace, the peace of the brave."

"Our people are yearning for peace," On Tuesday, he was to meet with other U.S. Jewish leaders before heading to Boston for a conference at Harvard University.

During his New York trip, he has met with nearly a dozen world leaders, among them President Jiang Zemin of China.

The conference members initially met Mr. Arafat's comments without applause, but they warmed rapidly to him as he spoke of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Two protesters were forcibly ejected from the room after yelling that he was a "murderer." On the street corner others shouted "We'll never forget!" and "Shame on you!"

"I can understand that," Mr. Arafat said. "I know it is not easy to forget the dramatic events."



Daniel Johnson, the leader of the Liberal Party in Quebec, and his wife greeting supporters at a "No" campaign rally.

Major Invites Menem to London
But Falklands Not Open for Negotiation, He Stresses

Reuters

LONDON — Prime Minister John Major has invited President Carlos Menem of Argentina to London, but Mr. Major said Tuesday that Britain's sovereignty over the Falkland Islands was not up for negotiation.

Mr. Major said, however, that it was time to heal the wounds over the South Atlantic archipelago that the two countries went to war over in 1982.

"The men who died saving the sovereignty of the Falklands did so to ensure that the Falklands could remain British for good," Mr. Major said in a radio interview after talks with

Mr. Menem in New York. "That is my objective, too."

The Menem visit could set the seal on a dramatic improvement in ties. Britain and Argentina signed a joint oil exploration agreement last month.

"Wounds always take a long time to heal in these circumstances," Mr. Major said. "What I am seeking to do is to try to ensure there are never again similar wounds in future."

Mr. Major was eager to stress that British sovereignty over the islands was not an issue.

"There is no doubt in the minds of the Argentinians that we believe our sovereignty over

the Falklands is secure, not in the short term but in the long term," he said.

"To such an extent is that understood that the matter was not even raised at my meeting with President Menem."

About 1,000 servicemen, three-quarters of them Argentine, died after Britain sent a task force to the Falklands in 1982 to repel an Argentine invasion of the islands.

The two countries restored diplomatic relations in 1989 and since then have put the sovereignty issue under a separate umbrella while forging closer diplomatic and economic links.

releasing their pent-up wastes into the ocean.

The tests under way in French Polynesia do not pose a perceptible risk of significant exposure to workers or the population," Mr. Santer concluded.

Paris welcomed the decision as confirmation of the government's long-standing claims that the tests were safe. The move should ease the political pressure that EU partners have brought upon France in recent months.

Although Mr. Chirac was criticized directly by some fellow leaders at EU meetings and 9 of 15 EU foreign ministers criticized the tests last month, he was never challenged by his main allies. Prime Minister John Major said Britain supported France's efforts to determine its own security needs, and Chancellor Helmut Kohl refused to let the issue undermine French-German relations.

The decision also ended a dilemma for the commission.

The agency held the only potential leverage over France via the 1957 Euratom treaty, which requires the commission to give an opinion of health risks posed by any "particularly dangerous" nuclear experiments. Furthermore, a majority of the 20 commissioners personally opposed the resumption of tests.

But, politically, commissioners were reluctant to take action against Paris in the European Court of Justice at a time when many EU members are seeking to curb the agency's powers.

TESTS:
EU Ends Threat

Continued from Page 1

EUROPE: German Call for Monetary Slowdown

Continued from Page 1

on the road to monetary union, the implementation of political union seems to have come to a kind of standstill," Mr. Issing said.

The influential German economics institutes, meanwhile, in one of the bluntest analyses seen to date on the subject, said there should be greater flexibility in judging whether candidates will have satisfied conditions on public deficits and debts in time for monetary union in 1999.

The forecasters noted that only Germany, Luxembourg and Ireland have so far met all five criteria for a single currency, which include guidelines on inflation, exchange rates, interest rates as well as keeping total public debt below 60 percent of gross domestic product and annual budget deficits to no more than 3 percent of GDP.

The other likely candidates for monetary union — France, Austria, the Netherlands and

Belgium — have so far failed to meet the budget deficit condition.

The institutes' joint report recommends "taking a relative view of or even neglecting" the conditions on total public debt and also suggests a more interpretative approach to the rule on budget deficits.

Yet Mr. Kohl, who faces a tough sell of the single currency idea in Germany, declared on Tuesday that "the basis for the joint currency are the strict stability criteria agreed."

This remains the French position as well, and Prime Minister Alain Juppé has promised France would meet all criteria on time.

Yet many senior bankers, investors and diplomats in both France and Germany speculate in private that some face-saving mechanism may be found to allow monetary union to be delayed beyond 1999 if France fails to get its deficit down to the 3 percent level, as required, by the end of 1997.

QUEBEC: Separatists Surge Before Referendum

Continued from Page 1

nize it. At the very least, a majority "yes" would plunge Canada into a constitutional crisis of long and bitter duration, and it might conceivably end with two or more sovereign nations along the northern border of the United States.

The U.S. government, officially neutral, has made little secret of its preference for a united Canada. Last week, Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher repeated the position, warning that Quebec's present economic relationships and trading agreements with the United States could not be taken for granted if different political arrangements prevailed in Canada.

For a year, polls have consistently indicated that a solid majority of Quebecers, long known for cautious political behavior, had deep misgivings about the economic consequences of surrendering their rights and privileges as Canadians. The last time they were asked to vote on an even softer "sovereignty association" formula, in 1980, they rejected it by 60 percent to 40 percent. Many analysts in English Canada continue to insist that in the voting booth Quebecers will vote conservatively again.

The shift in momentum this time around was caused principally by the decision of Quebec's premier, Jacques Parizeau, to turn over principal leadership of the flagging "yes" side to Lucien Bouchard, leader of the separatist party, the Bloc Québécois, in the federal Parliament.

Public support for Quebec separation has also increased as Mr. Bouchard and Mr. Parizeau have redefined their program. Mr. Parizeau,

whose Parti Québécois government was elected a year ago on a platform of separation from Canada, has since embraced the concept of a simultaneous offer of partnership with Canada.

The referendum question is complicated and, federalists say, deliberately vague and confusing. "Do you agree that Quebec should become sovereign after having made a formal offer to Canada for a new economic and political partnership?" the question begins, concluding with references to provincial legislation and a June 12, 1995, agreement on the partnership offer among separatist allies.

A sovereign Quebec, under the proposed plan, would maintain the Canadian passport and currency and establish supranational councils with Canada for purposes of common defense, customs and trade.

Mr. Bouchard, the polls suggest, has successfully sugar-coated the separatist option, a difficult pill for many undecided Quebecers to swallow, with the reassurance of continued close ties to Canada. Federal officials liken this to a divorce with bedroom privileges and have warned voters not to be taken in by the ruse.

For days now, attendance at Mr. Bouchard's rallies in Quebec has been climbing and the emotional level of the campaign intensifying. The surge in poll numbers, which defied the whole of Canadian conventional wisdom on the matter in recent months and years, helped to draw new and newly enthusiastic crowds. Waving Quebec's blue-and-white fleur-de-lis flag, 5,000 partisans thronged to see Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Parizeau and their ally Mario Dumont here Sunday.

Chirac Says
Paris Won't
'Interfere'
On QuebecBy Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — President Jacques Chirac of France was guardedly neutral Tuesday when he was asked his position on the Quebec independence referendum, perhaps having learned a lesson from the uproar caused nearly 30 years ago when Charles de Gaulle intervened provocatively in Canadian matters.

But Mr. Chirac's brief comment set off vigorous attempts by both sides to put their own spin on French intentions.

"The French government does not want to interfere in Canadian affairs," Mr. Chirac said in an interview on CNN. "We'll say what we think just after the referendum, but we don't want to interfere."

When asked how France would respond to a "yes" vote, Mr. Chirac said, "If the referendum is positive, the government will recognize the fact."

A Canadian spokesman in Washington emphasized that Mr. Chirac had not said France would recognize a sovereign Quebec, and that indeed the process launched by a yes vote would lead only slowly in that direction.

But Mr. Chirac's comment, however carefully formulated, was quickly seized on in Canada by partisans of separation.

"He's confirmed his commitment," Lucien Bouchard, leader of the Bloc Québécois, was quoted by the Canadian Press wire service as saying.

He was referring to a comment Mr. Chirac made in late January, while still mayor of Paris, that in the event of a yes vote on a Quebec referendum, France should be among the first to recognize a new state.

UKRAINE: Winter Nips at the Heels of Reform

Continued from Page 1

to avoid political upheaval over the shortages. The issue is also being exploited by those opposed to shutting down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which produces about 5 percent of Ukraine's electricity.

When it was part of the Soviet Union, Ukraine for decades burned and wasted huge amounts of cheap oil and gas from Russia and Turkmenistan. Since it gained independence in 1990, the country has slashed its energy use by one-third, but still spends more for energy overall since suppliers in the former Soviet republics started charging world-market prices.

Ukraine is dependent on imported oil, gas and coal, and thus has huge tanks to store reserves. They are now empty.

"We've been told that many electric power stations are operating off deliveries, pumping oil straight from the trucks into the burners," said Alex Sunkov, an international monetary fund energy specialist.

Igor Koblokh, a spokesman for the Energy Ministry, said: "Our situation is like in Arthur Hailey's novel 'Overload,' about a huge blackout in California. We are unhappy close to that. Our energy complex is like a house of cards. If one piece falls, it could all go down."

The government has shocked

foreign energy specialist.

"The big question now is, How will they get themselves through this winter?" he added.

For that, Ukraine has approached Western nations and lenders for \$30 million to provide as much as a three-week cushion of oil, diplomats said.

The money could help Ukraine avoid the worst of last year, when the country clawed through winter by begging, borrowing and, according to its neighbors, filching all the energy it could.

Russia accused Kiev of siphoning off its natural gas as it passed through Ukrainian pipelines on its way to Eastern Europe.

Moscow suspended an electricity-sharing arrangement with Ukraine because, it said, the Ukrainian power grid was only pulling electricity from Russian lines, sending none in return.

The new system, which still requires a final decision by the president or the cabinet to begin market operations, will be "one of the most competitive, well-regulated in Europe," said a

JIANG: Warning Over Taiwan

Continued from Page 1

Japan, in November, at the regular meeting of APEC, the Pacific Rim trading nations.

Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for Asia, said that the administration was encouraged by the fact that the meeting covered a broad range of issues and that it was not dominated by differences over Taiwan. He said that subject was discussed for about 15 minutes.

The United States reaffirmed its one-China policy of only official but friendly relations with Taiwan, and this seemed to satisfy Mr. Jiang.

Other matters included commercial questions such as the U.S. trade imbalance with China, its request for membership in the World Trade Organization, human rights, and Mr. Clinton's latest appeal before the United Nations for cooperation in fighting crime and drug cartels, in which Mr. Jiang showed interest.

They also discussed a nuclear test ban, which the Chinese agreed to study.

Mr. Lord summed up the meeting as one having made progress toward "a common strategic vision of the importance of the two countries to each other."

"We have differences and we will address these differences, but it is better to address them in this context."

Ties were severely strained last spring when Washington granted a visa to Taiwan's president, Lee Teng-hui, for an ostensibly private visit.

Even granting the visa was seen by Mr. Jiang, who at 69 is considered a transitional figure in China and is struggling to consolidate his power, as a direct slap at himself and at Beijing's claim to sovereignty over Taiwan.

Mr. Clinton is under pressure to remain cool toward Beijing from Taiwan's American supporters on the right and human-rights campaigners on the left — while American business continues to press for better relations so it can expand in China.

Arranging the meeting between the two presidents turned into a diplomatic minefield full of missteps. Mr. Clinton first invited Mr. Jiang to the White House, but he refused because it would not be a full state visit to Washington.

Mr. Clinton then invited him to lunch in New York, and Mr. Jiang said he already had arranged lunch with the UN secretary-general.

Finally, a meeting was arranged on the politically neutral ground of the New York Public Library. But that had to be shifted at the last minute to the administrative offices of Lincoln Center, New York's cultural center, after Mr. Jiang was made aware of documents and photographs in the library of the student-led, 1989 pro-democracy protest in Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

The exhibition was titled "What Price Freedom?" and included an early version of the American Declaration of Independence, a book by Galileo and a tape of a speech by Mohandas K. Gandhi.

MAP: Window on Sea's Mysteries

Continued from Page 1

before it unexpectedly failed. The craft had a radar altimeter that fired short pulses of microwaves at the ocean's surface and picked up reflected signals. The time of the round trip gave the satellite's altitude and a very precise reading of the sea's height down to a few inches.

Close examination of such readings showed that seabed features like mountains produced swells at the surface and trenches produced dips, mimicking the topography of the sea floor. Moreover, the features were fairly big, often several feet high. What caused them was the skewing of Earth's gravitational field.

In March 1985, the navy launched an improved mapper, Geosat, and used it to measure the pull of gravity on the sea until October 1986. Its findings of sea-surface height were accurate to about one inch (2.5 centimeters) and were classified secret because they could be used to improve the accuracy of missiles fired from submarines.

In 1990, with the Cold War ending, the navy declassified Geosat gravity data below 60 degrees south latitude, mostly around the Antarctic seas. In 1992, it publicly released all data below 30 degrees south, still a small slice of the Southern Hemisphere.

Finally, in July, the navy released all the remaining Geosat data. The ocean agency then combined it with readings from the European ERS-1 satellite, which had finished a similar gravity-mapping mission in April.

The new map not only reveals deep secrets but also is being used by airline equipment makers to improve the accuracy of navigation gear, which can be thrown off by gravitational anomalies.

Geologists and geophysicists are probably most excited about the map, which reveals a mountain of rocky facts and riddles. It instantly doubled the number of known volcanoes under the sea, many of which are strangely elongated and perhaps with analysis will give insights into plate structure and mechanics.

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Appears on Page 6

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So, bravo to our fellow award-winners and the Opel Vectra team for another great job. As we're sharing the honours, we'll happily share the

champagne. It's due to flow this week, during the official AutoWeek trophy presentation at the Tokyo Motor Show.

Cheers!

OPEL 

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Reminder on Rights

Relations between the United States and China have recovered enough to permit their presidents to meet. But the climate remains chilly. One reason is China's continuing hard line on human rights. Of special concern to Americans are two Chinese democrats who were freed from prison to help win trade concessions from Washington, but seized anew after Washington cut the link between trade and human rights.

Wei Jingsheng was a leader in the democratic flowering of 1979, when Deng Xiaoping, freshly rehabilitated, briefly tolerated political discussion. But once Mr. Deng consolidated power, he made an example of Mr. Wei, jailing him for nearly 15 years. Finally, Washington made an issue of his detention, helping to bring about his release in late 1993. He resumed his campaign for democracy and was seized again six months later. He has been

held since without charge. His friends have not heard from him in over a year.

The other imprisoned democrat, Chen Ziming, was one of the two people tried as intellectual leaders of the Tiananmen movement. Both Mr. Chen and his fellow defendant, Wang Junao, won medical release in early 1994 as China lobbied to renew its American trade privileges. Mr. Wang now lives in the United States, but Mr. Chen remained in China and was rearrested this June, despite the fact that he remains seriously ill.

When President Bill Clinton cut the link between China's trade privileges and its respect for human rights, he said Washington would use other means to defend Chinese citizens. He can now honor that commitment by reminding President Jiang Zemin about U.S. concern with the cases of Wei Jingsheng and Chen Ziming.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

A Balancing Act

The White House picked Hyde Park as the site of Monday's meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton because the Roosevelt homestead is a symbol of the wartime alliance between Moscow and Washington. The more relevant symbolism of the Hudson River estate might have been Franklin Roosevelt's acute instinct for balancing politics and diplomacy. It is a commodity that will be much needed in the months ahead as Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin try to guide the volatile relationship between their countries through the heat of presidential elections in both the United States and Russia.

The domestic political pressures already bearing down on both men were evident at Hyde Park, where much of the discussion dealt with Russia's role in a Bosnian peacekeeping force that would follow a Balkan peace agreement. The two leaders reported they made some progress, and Mr. Yeltsin said Russian troops would participate.

But despite a giddy news conference, they resolved none of the hard questions about Russian involvement. Mr. Yeltsin, eager to show that Russian prerogatives cannot be ignored, has refused to contribute troops if the peacekeeping force is under NATO command. Mr. Clinton has rejected Mr. Yeltsin's proposal of UN control.

The spirit of Hyde Park suggests a compromise that can satisfy the presidents' political concerns without undermining their principles. Russia must be part of any peacekeeping mission lest the force seem tilted against the Bosnian Serbs and Belgrade. Without that cooperation there can be no peace in Bosnia.

Bosnia's Revenge

The 50th anniversary of the United Nations may be remembered as Bosnia's revenge. The world body's prolonged failure to bring peace or justice to this newly coined state evoked the frailties for which the United Nations is now known: a weakness for rhetoric, vulnerability to business-as-usual politics, inability to enforce its will, evasion of responsibility. Russia, at least until Monday, had criticized Washington for going around the United Nations in Bosnia. But the American-led military and diplomatic intervention was its last hope. It is true that the United Nations was blamed for a policy that was not of its own making but that of its leading members. But nothing effective could be attempted until the United States and its NATO allies took on the project themselves.

In the United States and elsewhere, much opinion holds that the United Nations should be removed as an actor in the high politics of peacemaking and, after a rigorous screening of its special agencies, assigned functional tasks in crime, terrorism, health, environment and so on. The emphasis that President Bill Clinton put on crime fighting in his UN speech suggested American favor for such a retrenchment. It's not a bad idea.

Understandably, however, the United Nations is reluctant to abandon its core founding mission of international security. World disorder runs beyond the coping capacity of the separate states. The heavy lifting is going to have to be done by "coalitions of the willing" — such as the expedient alliance the United States formed outside the United Nations to fight the Gulf War and, now, to rescue what can be saved in Bosnia. But other operations can be left to the United Nations, which has done useful peacekeeping in Cambodia, Angola, El Salvador and elsewhere. A UN volunteer army? Taking on no more than it can realistically accomplish will be crucial, though that means some nations' miseries will go unaddressed.

Shaping up the world body is impor-

tant. To members this means two things. The United States and its allies want a more credible and efficient organization — a worthy purpose embarrassingly burdened by the American lag in paying dues. Others chafe under the permanent membership with veto that the World War II victors alone retain in the Security Council. They seek either to put some of their own on the council or, in the word of 37-year dictator Fidel Castro, of all unsuitable spokesmen, to "democratize" it. Opening up council membership modestly would be realistic. Making over the council as a second order, one-vote General Assembly would eliminate the institutional framework that makes American participation in the United Nations as a whole tenable.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

Islam and Economics

In many parts of the West it has become an article of faith that Islam condemns its adherents to backwardness. This, of course, is a loaded view because the usually unstated assumption is that "progress" runs in a straight line toward Sweden, a point of view reflected, for example, in the various UN draft plans of action that have come out of conferences in Rio, Cairo, Copenhagen and Beijing.

And whatever the record of Muslim countries in less happy parts of the world, Indonesia and Malaysia ought to have long demonstrated that Islamic societies are fully capable of accommodating economic growth.

Indeed, the debate that today engages Southeast Asian Muslims is a consequence of success. And it is a challenge that all religions eventually face: striking the proper relationship between state power and religious faith.

—Far Eastern Economic Review (Hong Kong).

China's Bellicose Rhetoric Should Set Off Alarms

By Denis Warner

MELBOURNE — Details have slowly been emerging about an incident that occurred in the Yellow Sea in international waters off the coast of China just a year ago, when Chinese aircraft challenged a U.S. aircraft carrier and its supporting flotilla of warships.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies in London said in its authoritative Strategic Survey for 1994-95 that the Chinese had warned the Americans they would "shoot to kill" next time. The latest edition of the equally authoritative Jane's Fighting Ships for 1995-96 throws more light on the Yellow Sea incident.

It says that the Kitty Hawk carrier battle group detected a Chinese nuclear submarine during an exercise off Korea and dropped sonars used for underwater detection. The Chinese responded by sending out shore-based planes and warning that future violations of Chinese-claimed territorial waters and airspace would prompt "defensive actions."

During the Cold War, U.S. and Soviet ships and aircraft played by a set of unwritten rules in which the detection of submarines in international waters and such acts as dropping sonars were part of the game. Today, it seems, the Chinese Navy has its own set of rules. Jane's believes the navy is tending to act inde-

pendently and is critical of the government in Beijing for not pursuing China's maritime sovereignty claims more actively. If that is so, difficult and potentially dangerous times lie ahead for East Asia and the Pacific, because China has unresolved territorial claims with many of its neighbors.

China today is well on the way to becoming a major military power with nuclear weapons, a strategic missile force, nuclear-powered submarines and an impressive amphibious capability. On the drawing boards are plans for extending the reach and power of its blue-water fleet by acquiring at least one and probably two aircraft carriers.

Forty-five years ago, in mid-October 1950, Chinese Communist troops advanced into Tibet as a first step to "liberating" territories that Beijing claimed but which were not yet under its control. Taiwan was to have been next, and plans were well advanced for an invasion when, under pressure from Stalin, Mao Zedong committed his forces to a major war in Korea.

The Nationalists on Taiwan have long abandoned any thought of recovering the mainland, and last year they formally renounced any such claim. However, Bei-

jing remains insistent that the island is a renegade province that must one day return to the fold, just as Hong Kong and the New Territories will return to Chinese rule in mid-1997.

Since Taiwan's president, Lee Teng-hui, made a private visit to the United States in June, China has mixed threats of force, to remind people on the island of the dangers of contemplating independence, with some conciliatory gestures.

With parliamentary elections due in Taiwan in December, and the election of a president for the first time by direct vote in March, Beijing is likely to continue its pressure in the coming months. Since any party favoring independence for Taiwan is unlikely to win, the tension may begin to dissipate, but only temporarily.

Having thrown off one-party rule for multiparty democracy, Taiwan's people will scrutinize events in Hong Kong after Beijing's takeover. Hong Kong's elected Legislative Council seems destined for abolition. This will do nothing to encourage Taiwan to accept reunification with the mainland and may also strengthen the hand of those in China who favor using force to prevent the island from becoming independent.

At present, such a prospect exists more in the minds of the Chinese armed forces

and the government in Beijing than on Taiwan. Most in Taiwan do not want to risk throwing down the gauntlet to China and are happy enough with the status quo.

But nearly half a century has passed since the Kuomintang refugees fled the mainland for Taiwan. They matter less and less in Taiwan politics, and their children have grown up in an entirely different environment. The longer the separation continues, the more they and native Taiwanese are likely to resist the authoritarianism associated with the mainland.

Bellicose and exaggerated rhetoric was a hallmark of the early years of the Communist regime in China. It diminished after the end of the Cultural Revolution.

The resumption of such rhetoric now, when there is much more military bite to go with the bark, must be a cause for serious concern in the Asia-Pacific region, not only for Taiwan but for the South China Sea and other areas where countries have territorial conflicts with their giant neighbor.

The writer, a longtime Asia correspondent for British, American and Australian publications and former editor of the Asia-Pacific Defense Reporter magazine, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Europe's Monetary and Political Future Is In Serious Danger

By Jacques Mélin

PARIS — Europe's monetary and political future is very much in jeopardy today. It is obvious that the recent German challenge of France's ability to meet the Maastricht treaty's conditions on government deficits spells trouble for European monetary union.

Some Clinton aides mistakenly see Russian participation in Bosnia as a first step toward enlarging the alliance, and some of Mr. Yeltsin's advisers just as mistakenly see a Russian role there as capitulation to NATO. Peacekeeping in Bosnia is not a test case for NATO expansion. It is still far from clear that expansion of a Cold War military alliance is necessary to consolidate democracy and market economics in central Europe today.

For Washington to push expansion now, and make it integral to the Bosnian case, seems not only gratuitous but self-defeating. The surest way for Washington to encourage nationalism and rearmament in Moscow is to push NATO expansion as Russia turns toward parliamentary elections in December and presidential balloting next June.

Franklin Roosevelt held the World War II allies together with shrewd leadership and a subtle sense for the mix of politics and foreign policy. Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin should follow his example.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ment deficits should be interpreted in this light.

When the treaty was signed, Germany had not yet received the political compensations it wanted in return for giving up its monetary independence. Germany then imposed the Maastricht criteria on the other countries in order to have a large say about the identity of its eventual partners, and even to be able to reject the project of monetary union outright in the end.

Evidently, safe passage toward monetary union has been and remains a question of utmost tact and diplomacy, particularly on the part of Germany and France.

It is easy to see how Germany and France would have needed to behave for things to have proceeded smoothly. Bonn carried the responsibility of deferring open discussion of EMU membership, an explosive issue that needed to be contained until the very last possible moment, toward the end of 1996. Up to then, even the vaguest suspicion that France, in particular, might not meet the eligibility criteria should have been repressed, lest the whole project topple.

The heaviest diplomatic burden rested on French shoulders. Paris needed to prepare the way for the political concessions that would enable Chancellor Helmut Kohl to eventually convince the German citizenry to swallow the bitter pill of abandoning the Deutsch mark.

But after the French presidential elections in May, that hypothetical game plan was shelved. True, French deficits had al-

ready gone up to 6 percent of gross domestic product the year before, mostly under the impact of the sharpest recession in Europe in the postwar period. However, the deficits were already heading down to 5 percent when Mr. Waigel spoke. Moreover, the Maastricht treaty explicitly says that the ratio of a country's deficit to GDP may exceed the "reference value" of 3 percent if it "has declined substantially and continually" or, alternatively, if "the excess over the reference value is only exceptional and temporary."

Budgetary equilibrium may be and most likely is a good thing for France. But no principles of sound money can explain Mr. Waigel's decision to publicly voice his misgivings about France's finances. French inflation is about 2 percent. France runs a surplus in trade in goods and services, and has done so for several years. The level of French government debt is readily manageable.

Had Germany and France seen eye to eye politically, it is unthinkable that Mr. Waigel or any top German official would have questioned France's candidature for membership in the EMU.

Europe's monetary and political future, therefore, is in considerable danger. Chancellor Kohl may continue to prod his countrymen to think monetary union would benefit them, if only all other members of the system adhered to the Maastricht criteria. But the German public will not believe him, and ultimately Mr. Kohl will not be able to railroad the country into

monetary union against the will of an overwhelming majority. On the French side, President Jacques Chirac may decide that the price of monetary union is too high or, conversely, he may embark on a wholehearted effort to achieve it. But the most important danger of all is that Mr. Chirac persists in pretending that he has no choice to make and can have everything at once: priority on employment, 3 percent or lower public deficits by 1997, jealous defense of French sovereignty in all matters except monetary policy, and monetary union in 1999-2001.

If he continues to suppose the full compatibility of his multiple objectives, we in France are likely to get the worst of all possible worlds: no monetary union along with no reduction in unemployment and no improvement in the government's finances.

Instead, we will probably have to contend with persisting unemployment rates around 11 percent, government deficits stubbornly above 4 percent of GDP and higher nominal interest rates than Germany's with occasional upward spikes, since the market knows that, as long as France stays in the European Monetary System, any major move toward a monetary policy will temporarily reduce the value of the franc even if the currency ultimately recovers.

The writer is a professor of economics at the Institut des Etudes Politiques in Paris. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Independent or Not, Quebec Has Political Lessons to Share

By Gerald Segal and Marie France Desjardins

LONDON — Whether or not Quebec votes for independence next Monday, Canada is bound to change. Since the last referendum, in 1980, Canada has exhausted itself in constitutional calisthenics. It has so far failed to find a new form of federalism, and that has left Quebec to try its own solution.

The most honest, but difficult, outcome would be for the distinct society in Quebec to choose independence. But even if it doesn't, Canada will be forced to evolve a looser, almost "virtual" federalism. The new political solutions that are found will have implications for many others around the world struggling to find a more perfect federalism.

The costs of independence or virtual federalism seem to have faded. Since the last referendum, North Americans have adopted a

free trade agreement in which Quebec can live with almost as much prosperity whether it is a part of Canada or not.

The political costs of separation have also shrunk. The end of the Cold War led many states in Europe to split apart. Few can doubt that Quebec has a vibrant and distinct French-speaking society far more capable of standing on its own than most of the new states of Europe and Central Asia.

Quebec is proposing a full economic union with Canada while assuming political independence. It offers a laboratory to test a more civilized version of integration than the current frantic findlings in the European Union with an unwieldy federalism.

A Quebec-like "sovereignty association" in Europe might be a way of meeting the concerns of skeptics about political identity while retaining the benefits of economic union. All those who are interested in a workable solution to the vexing question of blending nationalism, federalism and interdependence should welcome the experiment in Canada.

The question of Quebec's independence will remain on the agenda as long as the "Yes" campaign obtains at least 40 percent of the vote (the total it received in 1980). But in any case, Quebec and Canada's other provinces will soon obtain far more control over their lives. The federal government will make massive cuts in

spending to reduce its budget deficit. The result will be an increase in provincial power.

Even if the vote is "Yes," the world need not worry. An independent, or even virtually independent, Quebec could mean new support for free trade and multilateralism. It was Quebec that saw the political and economic benefits of NAFTA and argued in Canada for an active free trade area. Following independence, Quebec would have every reason to build that global economy on openness to the global economy.

An independent Quebec would be the second-largest and second-richest French-speaking state in the world. And by showing that healthy French culture can exist under America's nose, Quebec could help France shed its paranoia about free trade in services, especially in information technology and entertainment.

Of course, a Canadian divorce would be messy. Arranging succession to treaties would not be simple. Would Quebec stand behind Poland for a spot in NATO?

While the more honest outcome might be for Quebec to become independent, the more likely outcome is a decision to form a looser federation by stealth. History suggests that Québecois agitation for independence will continue to force Canada to experiment with federal systems. More immediately, the reduction in federal power because of budget constraints will provide for a looser federalism.

After Bosnia and Chechnya, it would be nice (what other word would Canadians use?) to know nationalism could be satisfied with new political forms while close economic harmony is enhanced. Whether this is achieved with independence, or with virtual independence within a formal federalism, it seems clear Canada will reach us a new way for troubled neighbors to live together.

Gerald Segal is a senior fellow and Marie France Desjardins is a research associate at the Institute for Strategic Studies in London. They contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Egypt Quashes Militants — For Now

By Thomas L. Friedman

CAIRO — Rifa'at es-Said, secretary general of Egypt's liberal Progressive Unionist Party, eased into his office chair, lifts up his shirt, smiles at me sheepishly and quickly removes a Spanish-made 9mm revolver that was tucked into his belt.

"Excuse me," he says, laying the gun on his desk. "I have my machine guns at home."

I tell him that was the best opening line to an interview I'd ever heard, and he chuckles at himself. Mr. Said can afford to be a little more relaxed these days. Although he remains high on the hit list of Egypt's extremist Muslim fundamentalist groups — because of his outspoken opposition to Islamic rule — Mr. Said knows that it is now the Muslim militants who are on the run.

Two years ago, violent Muslim fringe groups were attempting to assassinate the prime minister and liberal politicians, mobbing up tourist buses and engaging in daily gun fights with the police. The question was being asked: Is Egypt the next Algeria?

The answer, for now, looks to be no. After a two-year battle, the government, with a lot of passive

public support, seems to have quashed the Muslim militants in Cairo and seriously disrupted their network in Upper Egypt. Tourists are streaming back, and last week Cairo hosted the World Tourism Organization's annual convention.

Why the turnaround? To begin with, there was always a limit on how deeply Islamic militancy would catch on here.

Egypt is not Algeria. Egyptians are a famously easygoing people, quick to laugh, comfortable with foreigners and uncomfortable with violence. The xenophobic, austere and humorless demeanor of the Muslim extremists never fit easily on Egypt's body politic. And Egypt has always been a fairly religious country, where large segments of the population freely practice a simple, folk version of Islam.

In Egypt's case, the militants also overplayed their hand. They lost much popular support when, in indiscriminately attacking government officials, they killed many innocent bystanders. This

allowed the government to turn the Islamic threat from a question of religion and state to one of law and order.

And the public, while not necessarily in love with the government, was more interested in law and order. So, using some very good intelligence work, the police here raided militant hideouts up and down the Nile Valley. They took few prisoners.

But in some way, Egypt's cure and its disease are the same thing. Its cure for fundamentalism is to bring the full weight of the state down on the extremists. But its disease is that same bludgeoned, over-weight state that is unable to produce enough jobs to keep pace with a burgeoning population.

Islamic militancy is, at root, a secular phenomenon. It is an extreme religious response to Egypt's predicament — its unemployment, corruption, inequality, declining living standards, unrepresentative government and dependence on the West.

As long as the Egyptian state is unable to address these secular conditions, the Nile Valley will be fertile soil for Islamic extremism.

New York Times Service

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1895: Fowl Milk?

PARIS — A correspondent from the *Field* observed a cow belonging to Mr. Broadbent pursuing some animated creature, which he found to be a wounded partridge. He saw the cow pick up the partridge in her mouth and proceed to chew it, only leaving the head, legs and a few feathers. Much surprised, he communicated the matter to Mr. Broadbent who told him that on various occasions remains of chickens had been found in the cow's field. He now thus accounts for the loss of several fowls. The milk has in no way suffered from this unusual diet.

1920: Carnegie Estate

NEW YORK — The appraisal of Andrew Carnegie's estate at \$23,247,161 falls far below the estimates which have been current since his death, ranging from 25 to 55 millions. The Steel King long ago announced that the am-

mount of every rich man should be to die poor, and year after year he forced his competitors to pay 300 millions above the market price to secure control of his company. His gifts, especially to libraries, attracted world-wide attention. The Carnegie Foundation will receive less than eleven millions. The remainder goes to the widow, including a trust fund to be left for the testator's daughter.

1945: Quisling Shot

OSLO — Vidkun Quisling, the arch collaborator, stumbled to his death before a firing squad of young Norwegian patriots early this morning (Oct. 24) in a murky, drizzling rain. He was shot by ten military police — youths who during the war had been forced to flee the country and possible death at the hands of Quisling. The pale puppet dictator was convicted last month of betraying his country to the Nazis. Norwegians took the news of Quisling's death quietly.

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OPINION/LETTERS

For Peace in the Balkans, Don't Leave Kosovo Out

By Julie Mertus

WASHINGTON — The American-led peace initiative in the former Yugoslavia is bringing needed relief to Bosnia-Herzegovina, but it will not establish lasting peace in the Balkans unless the leaders of all major ethnic groups in the region are included in negotiations.

In putting pragmatism ahead of justice, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke has overlooked one crucial ingredient in solving the Balkan problem: the ethnic Albanians of Kosovo.

Although Albanians make up more than 85 percent of the population of Kosovo, which was an

has kept the United Nations from giving any recognition to Ibrahim Rugova, who was designated president of Kosovo following 1991 elections that were not recognized by the Serbian authorities.

Should Mr. Milosevic's support in Serbia falter because of the peace agreement in Bosnia and military setbacks at the hands of the Croats, he may well seek to resolidify his hold by provoking conflict in Kosovo. Fighting there would undoubtedly spread to Albania and could draw in Macedonia — of which 23 percent of the population is ethnic Albanian — Greece and Bulgaria. Diplomatically, it would pit America against Russia, which supports Serbian control of Kosovo.

To avoid this scenario, Kosovo must be present at the international bargaining table. This can be done only if the United States ignores the UN stance that the elected government of the Kosovo Albanians deserves no voice in negotiations.

The United States, concerned about Kosovo, has been quietly funneling millions of dollars there annually to keep health services afloat. Also, there is a precedent for negotiating with leaders who do not preside over an internationally recognized state. Mr. Holbrooke has been dealing with Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serbian leaders, who have been indicted for war crimes. Thus Mr. Rugova cannot be excluded from negotiations simply because he was the victor in "illegal" elections.

What could the Kosovo Albanians hope to gain? At the very least, the United States should back their requests for international observers to monitor the gross violations of human rights. Mr. Rugova would also likely call for a third party, either United Nations blue helmets or NATO troops, to enforce a normalization process in the region that would consist of easing the Serbian police presence and opening locally run schools, hospitals and government offices.

To be sure, giving the Albanians of Kosovo a place at the table might infuriate Mr. Milosevic. But to try and reach peace in the Balkans without addressing the Kosovo issue is to try putting out a fire while leaving the coals burning.

The writer is at work on a book about Kosovo. She contributed this column to *The New York Times*.

There is a precedent for negotiating with leaders who do not preside over an internationally recognized state.

Autonomous region in the former Yugoslavia, they have long been controlled by the ethnic Serb minority, Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia. He has been indicted for a speech in Kosovo decrying the so-called Albanian brutality against Kosovar Serbs. His words led to a barrage of violence against Albanians, arrests and kangaroo trials. Many Albanians were stripped of their property when they refused to sign oaths of loyalty to the new Yugoslavia. The Albanians have formed their own parallel society complete with "underground" schools, hospitals and local governments. The UN Commission on Human Rights is "The vast majority of the population lives in constant fear."

Mr. Milosevic has refused to discuss Kosovo in international meetings, calling it an internal matter. He

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

ISN'T IT FUNNY THAT REPORT AFTER REPORT CITES AMERICANS LACK OF READING, WRITING AND LEARNING SKILLS?

CAN ANYONE TELL ME WHAT IS THE CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES?

ER...

UMH...

OH...

CAPITAL? HOLLYWOOD!!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doctors Going South

Regarding "Canada Watches as Its Doctors Pack Up and Head South" (Oct. 12):

It is indeed a shame that Canada is losing some of its best doctors to the United States because, among other reasons, they feel they can no longer provide good quality medical care with the resources available in their homeland. How ironic it is that many of their Canadian patients followed them to the United States, they would find the care these doctors could provide to be unaffordable.

LARRY BAER

Montreal

Monetary Control

Roy Denman ("A Tempest in a Teacup" Oct. 20) condemns the British for working to retain control of their own par-

liamentary system and fighting against the tunnel view of Brussels bureaucrats. We did not fight two world wars against Germany so that we could hand over monetary control of our country to the Bundesbank — no matter how efficient it may be.

J. B. S. MONTGOMERIE

Helsinki, Finland

A Chance for Peace

With the peace process in Northern Ireland blocked because of the demand that the IRA surrender its arms, it would be well to recall that in 1921, David Lloyd George, Winston Churchill, Lord Birkenhead, Austen Chamberlain and H. H. Asquith, all of them grandees of the British Empire, signed — without any pre-conditions, and talked peace with the IRA and Sinn Féin. The British never asked for the surrender of Irish guns or equipment. King

George V was very supportive of what his ministers were doing. The Anglo-Irish Treaty resulted; and later on, the Republic of Ireland.

What was good enough for Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Churchill and the king in 1921, should be good enough for John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown in 1995. It would be a chance to end 800 years of bloodshed. The opportunity should not be missed — in the interests of both countries.

CHARLES O'BRIEN

Huntingdon, England

Just the Lady

Margaret Thatcher for secretary-general of NATO. Immediately, if not sooner. There has never been a better opportunity to obtain the "right man for the right job."

JACK JOLIS

Brasschaat, Belgium

BOOKS

THE LAST DEBATE

By Jim Lehrer. 318 pages. \$23. Random House.

Reviewed by Robert Campbell

WHEN it comes to writing political thrillers, Jim Lehrer may be the ultimate insider-outsider. As co-anchor and executive editor of the "MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour," he can be expected to bring the real scoop on the customs and mores of the political scene, and a thorough briefing on the rules of conduct that inform and define the public intercourse between journalist and newsmaker.

Among the first of these rules is the prohibition against any professional, especially in a public forum, interjecting his or her own bias into the give and take of an interview. It is a breach of accepted behavior as serious as a priest's abuse of the confessional or a lawyer's violation of attorney-client privilege. On the other hand, the reporter must follow his conscience in exposing wrongs.

This is the moral dilemma in which Lehrer places Mike Howley, the journalist assigned to moderate the only presidential debate to be held in the campaign season between a wimpish liberal candidate and a

charismatic conservative one. Early on in "The Last Debate," we are given a good look at Howley's "self-hate" and disgust with what the American news business in all its forms has become.

"We have sold out to a higher purpose than keeping you informed," he tells a group before whom he is speaking for a fee. "We now are slaves to our own glory, our own lecture fees, our own faces, our own snideness, our own bank accounts," which is a neat way to say "shame on me" before anybody else has a chance to say "shame on you" as he accepts the check.

Nevertheless, these remarks are an example of the conflict this decent man suffers and is about to resolve in a manner that will bring down a great deal of notoriety, riches and controversy on himself and his colleagues.

Lehrer's book is a *roman à clef*. There are a good many fictional characters that may be matched with their living counterparts. David Donald Meredith, for example, displays characteristics easily assigned to Mike Howley, the journalist assigned to moderate the only presidential debate to be held in the campaign season between a wimpish liberal candidate and a

James Carville and Mary Malin, who turned their ideological differences into a vaudeville act that proved to be a gold mine.

If there is a flaw in Lehrer's book, it comes in the endgame. Resolution of all the plot threads does not always come easily or gracefully. I sense a certain confusion in the author about how far to go in the attempt to create an air of verisimilitude. It may well be that in real life we may never know the identity of Deep Throat, the informant for Woodward and Bernstein's exposé of Watergate, but I would have preferred it if Lehrer had not been quite so reticent about the identity of his fictional informant.

I will permit myself a final negative observation. Jim

Lehrer, I fear, has fallen into the trap laid at the feet of all novelists; he could not resist a final, lengthy polemic that seems an expression of Lehrer the journalist instead of Tom Chapman, his fictional narrator.

Does this mean I cannot wholeheartedly recommend "The Last Debate"? By no means. It is skillfully plotted and intelligently wrought, avoids most of the pitfalls of melodrama without sacrificing suspense, and captures and sustains interest.

Robert Campbell, the Edgar Award-winning author of "Sauce for the Goose," the ninth book in a mystery series based in Chicago, wrote this article for *The Washington Post*.

A note to our readers



To help the International Herald Tribune find out more about its readers, please look for the 1995 IHT Reader Survey Questionnaire which will appear Thursday, October 26. As a token of our appreciation, we will be sending food and clothing to children in need, worldwide, on your behalf.

Results of the survey will be published in the newspaper in November. Thank you in advance for your help.

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The Junk in Your Mailbox May Be Held Against You

By Joe Queenan

TARRYTOWN, New York — The Wall Street Journal recently ran a story about a lawsuit that could break the back of the junk-mail industry.

The suit against U.S. News & World Report was filed by a Virginia man who claims that the magazine broke the law when it sold his name

MEANWHILE

and address to a second publication, Smithsonian Magazine, which then sent him an unwanted pitch letter.

Apparently, Ram Avrahami, 32, has been trying for years to stem the tide of junk mail — between one and seven solicitations per day — that flows into his mailbox. He has written to companies that have purchased his name from other commercial enterprises, asking them to delete him from their lists, but the junk mail keeps coming.

Fed up, Mr. Avrahami has now taken legal action, claiming that publishers have assisted in the "misappropriation" of his personal property — i.e., his name — and "invasion" of his privacy and must make restitution to him and others like him. The case will be heard in the General District Court in Arlington, Virginia, in November.

Some people reading about this incident will conclude that Mr. Avrahami is an irksome fussbudget. Not me. Like Mr. Avrahami, I think that the sale of my name to compilers of mailing lists is a gross invasion of privacy.

But unlike Mr. Avrahami, I do not regard junk mail merely as a nuisance. I view junk mail as a menace — a sinister entity fraught with the potential to destroy my career.

Let me explain. Like millions of Americans, I live in a small town. I work out of an office in the middle of Tarrytown, New York, and get my mail delivered to an old-fashioned metal box just outside my office door. Anyone glancing inside my mailbox can see exactly what kind of mail I am receiving.

While I have implicit faith in my trusty mailman, Vinnie, who would never divulge the identities of the junk-mail solicitors who send me stuff, I have less confidence in the scores of people who wander in and out of my building every day.

What's more, Tarrytown has some form of garbage police who inspect the trash found in public litter boxes

and write angry letters to merchants who absently dump refuse in these receptacles. Thus, any number of people could have intimate knowledge of the kinds of mail I receive.

Why is this a problem? It is a problem because as a journalist and a subscriber to 16 magazines I am on every mailing list imaginable. As a result, I get junk mail from every nutcase in America. The last thing I want is for my neighbors to think that I share the values of, or donate money to, these odious fruitcakes just because I'm on their mailing lists.

For example, in a Democratic stronghold like Tarrytown, it is not such a good idea to let word get around that you're on Ollie North's mailing list. In a town where the public schools have a 50 percent minority makeup, you don't want your neighbors to know you are on one of Jesse Helms's mailing lists. Not when your kids go to public school.

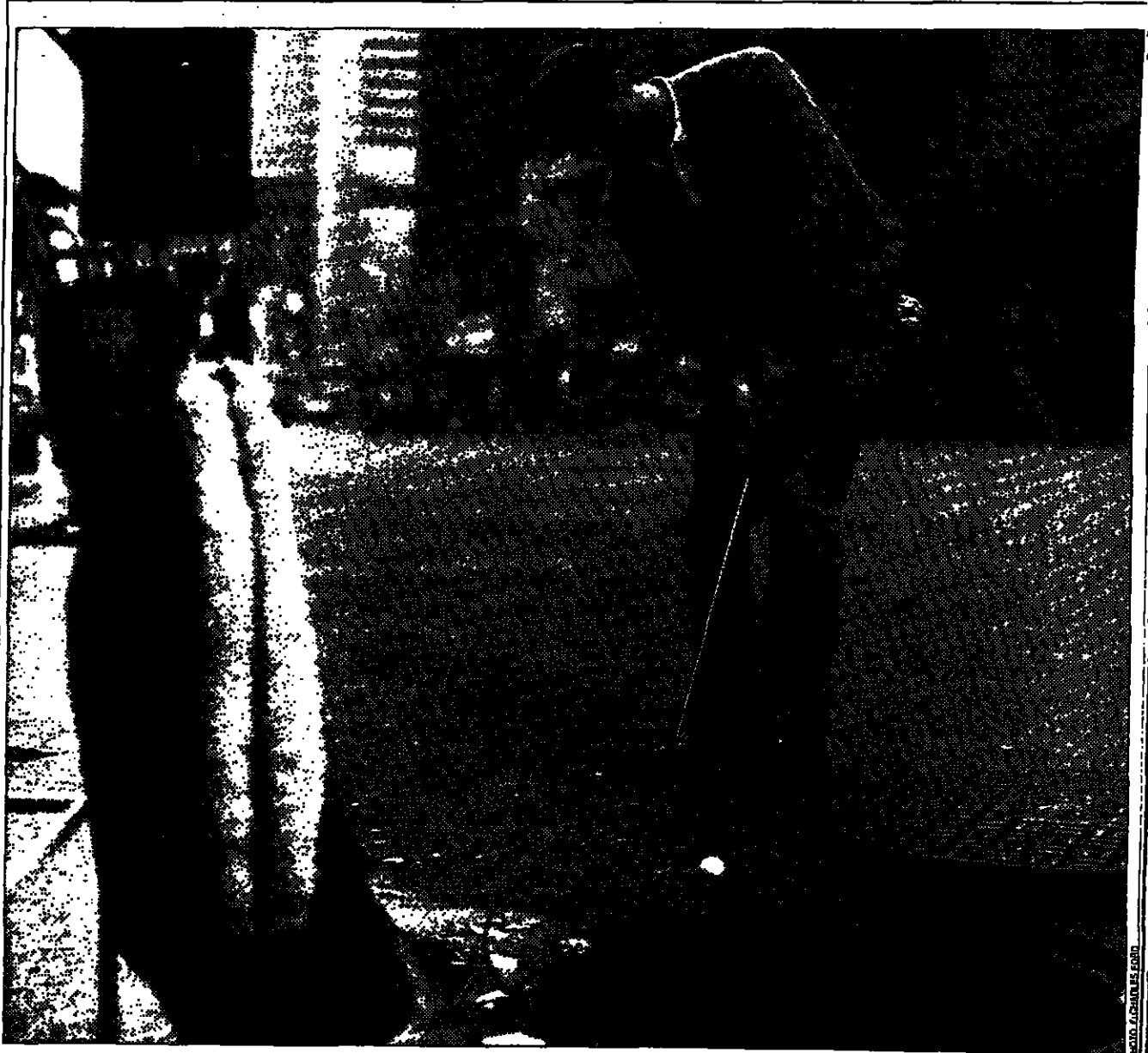
Moreover, as a person who earns about 53 percent of his income by making fun of people like Ben & Jerry and Jimmy Carter, it is embarrassing to get junk mail from organizations deeply concerned with the plight of the whales, the fate of the ozone layer or the depletion of the ozone layer, all of which I am expected to dismiss as a big joke.

Sadly, small towns are still places where guilt by association is the prevailing rule in social relations. In the eyes of the your neighbors, if you're getting weird mail, you must be a weird person. This can lead to all sorts of complications. Imagine how unpleasant things could get if your name suddenly turned up on one of those mailing lists compiled by pedophilic organizations. Or a mailing list compiled by Nazi skinheads.

Of course, I could rent a post office box. But the folks who work at the post office would still see my mail. Tongues could still wag. And I'd still have to be careful not to drop that last pitch letter from The Nation in a public trash can for fear that the garbage police would brand me a pinto.

And besides, why should I pay for a post office box when I already pay an enormous sum to get the mail delivered to my door? With this in mind, I wish Mr. Avrahami all the luck in the world.

The writer, who just received a mailing from the Chastity Association of New York, contributed this column to *The Washington Post*.



"What I really like is its precision"

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كتاب الام

A Superb 'Meistersinger' in Berlin

By Paul Moor

BERLIN — Werner Kelch's durable workhorse German State Opera production of Richard Wagner's only comedy, "Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg," turned 27 in May. This week, with nine singers performing their roles for the first time, it got up and cantered almost like a quarter horse. Special credit goes to the impressive conductor: a 34-year-old Australian named Simone Young.

No young conductor has an easy time of it, but the few women among them have an especially tough time. Young's sensational Sydney Opera debut at 24, substituting for a colleague taken ill, led to an assistant's post at the Cologne Opera. From there she leapt into the big time, as Daniel Barenboim's assistant for his Paris "Wozzeck" and his Bayreuth "Ring" and "Tristan."

Full-fledged conducting engagements since have come from Berlin's Komische Oper, Vienna's Volksoper and Staatsoper — which meant conducting, and winning over, the misogynist Vienna Philharmonic — Paris's Bastille Opera and London's Covent Garden. New York's Metropolitan has signed her for 1996. Already she belongs to the staff of the German State Opera here.

Of the nine role debutants under her baton in "Meistersinger," René Pape as Pogner particularly stood out — a powerful, profoundly resonant bass of awe-

some presence. As Eva, Carola Höhn proved vocally pleasing. Hemo Garduhn, Andreas Kohn, Peter-Jürgen Schmidt, Antti Suhonen, and Bernd Zetsch all distinguished themselves as five of Nuremberg's Master Singers.

The tenor Andreas Schmidt, as David, handled his vocal and theatrical assignments well, but his name creates some confusion: record collectors already know the outstanding baritone of the same name

The Australian's conducting was vigorous and judiciously paced.

who, to compound the confusion, sings at the Deutsche Oper Berlin. Korea's Kwangchul Youn capably rounded out the debutants as the Night Watchman.

Regular members of this ensemble performed the remaining leading parts. Britain's powerful baritone John Tomlinson had the plum baritone role of Hans Sachs. He also will sing Wotan early next spring when this house's artistic director Barenboim and the stage director Harry Kupfer complete the Staatsoper's first Wagnerian "Ring" tetralogy in almost 40 years.

Three other ensemble members, Norbert

Orth (Stolz), Uta Prew (Magdalena), Elke Wilm Schulte (Beckmesser), handled their assignments with impressive professional suavity. Schulte coped especially well with the problem of bringing vocal excellence to a grotesquely satirical caricature of a part.

One may regard post-reunification Berlin as hardly opera house poor, what with three major companies in full swing 10 or 11 months a year. On the darker side of November 1989's reunification, most German cultural institutions face budget slashes, some draconic. According to rumor, the Komische Oper must close. Its supporters stress that even after World War I, beset by raving inflation, Berlin had three opera companies, and all survived. Berlin's German State Opera, in spite of harsh charges of irresponsible budgeting, has least to fear: the German government has declared the Staatsoper, in its magnificent old theater on the Unter den Linden, the official opera house of Germany.

A few boos blemished the shouting ovation that Simone Young's solo bow brought her. One may assume their exorcism from male traditionalists; certainly they had no justification in her vigorous, judiciously paced, altogether superior conducting.

No woman conductor yet has made it to the top. Of those few on the scene today, I would put my own money on Simone Young.

Paul Moor is a freelance journalist based in Berlin.

LONDON THEATER



Royal Shakespeare Company

Joseph Fiennes as Jesus leads a strong cast in Dennis Potter's "Son of Man."

Funny but Dark 'Way of the World'

By Sheridan Morley
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — At the National, Phyllida Lloyd's "The Way of the World" is a considerable joy despite the fact that it seems to require a fashion consultant rather than a theater critic. Characters are gorgeously costumed in an eccentric mix of ancient and modern, each entrance getting more confidently grotesque until Geraldine McEwan, in the performance of the night and her career, comes on looking like an ostrich that has mysteriously been crammed into a tambourine lined with fresh flowers.

She also seems to be running a remarkably myopic household, since her entire staff comes on wearing spectacles. Little house jokes like these make one for a while suspect that the director has lost confidence in her author, but thanks to the highly intelligent, thoughtful Millamant and Mirabell of Fiona Shaw and Roger Allam, Congreve eventually wins through.

A play once perceived and played as a kind of Restoration romp now emerges as something at once funnier and darker. Against the increasingly frantic face of Wishfort, we get the other two principals trying to set out a whole new (and for its time dangerously revolutionary) pattern of marriage and peaceful sexual co-existence.

The perennial modernity of "Way of the World" may not need all the help that Lloyd and her designer Anthony Ward have given it, with the background of London's trendiest art galleries and the notion of Wishfort ending up as a bag lady looked out of her own front door. But in here somewhere is an

intelligent reappraisal of the play that raised the curtain as well as the alarm on a whole new artillery charge in the battle of the sexes. What Lloyd has done is show us the way forward from Congreve to Coward.

Death, as Gore Vidal once observed of Tennessee Williams, can often be a wise career move for a playwright. And sure enough this year the Royal Shakespeare Company, having never paid too much attention in their lifetimes, have decided we should have another look at John Osborne and Dennis Potter. Thus we get Osborne's "A Patriot for Me" (on the main Barbican stage at an epic four and a quarter hours), and downstairs in the Pit, an unusually brilliant marriage of director and script.

Dennis Potter originally wrote his "Son of Man" for television in 1969, when it caused a considerable if now largely incomprehensible furor for daring to portray Christ as a more or less ordinary bloke caught up in an unfathomable mystery, though writers like Dorothy L. Sayers had, in fact, been suggesting as much for decades albeit not in front of millions of viewers.

Now the RSC gives the script to Bill Bryden, a charismatic stage manager. True to his own pop theater traditions and to Potter, Bryden duly imports songs and has the audience join in the crowd scenes. Sure there's imminent danger of "Godspell" here, but a strong cast led by Joseph Fiennes as Christ and John Standing as a weary, elegantly confused Pontius Pilate consistently avoids it.

With his sure grasp of group playing and character acting, Bryden reminds us of what our subsidized stages have for too

long been neglecting: the power of sheer, unashamed theatricality as, in this case, a way of expressing Potter's eternally simple belief in the strength of love over law.

At the Almeida, Ian McDiarmid's rare revival of Otway's "Venice Preserved" is curiously disappointing. This was a drama that did much for both Gielgud and Scofield, and it fits naturally into the Almeida policy of dark, grainy rediscovery. However, with one or two exceptions it has been woefully undercast, and the problem of uniting the high political tragedy with the low sexual comedy has not been adequately solved.

As the plotter who betrays his colleagues to the Venetian Senate at the behest of his aristocratic wife, David Bark-Jones conveys a kind of petulant puzzlement in place of self-destruction, while Alice Krige as Belvidera is equally wan. Only when you get to the senators, with John Woodvine as the heavy and John Quail as the one with secret sexual vices, do you begin to get the weight the drama deserves if it is to maintain its poetic energy.

Julian McGowan's set brilliantly suggests a Venice divided against itself, where plot and counterplot tumble toward the canals. Quail manages with no false modernity to indicate that his kinky senator might well be the direct forerunner of every government minister who has found himself in call girl trouble these last few years.

But the center has not held. Ray Fearon as the friend betrayed has the right mix of nobility and rage, but Goldsmith's claim that Otway was second only to Shakespeare looks a little overambitious on the present evidence, as it did even in a rather better National Theater staging a decade ago.

A Château Theater's Operas Past

By David Stevens
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The Théâtre Français de la Musique was launched a few years ago with a double goal — one, of restoring a château theater to a life it never had, the other the rehabilitation of a vast French lyric repertoire that once thrived but now has disappeared.

The first task was achieved five years ago with the opening of the Théâtre Impérial, adjacent to the palace at Compiègne built by Louis XV.

The theater was begun on the order of Napoléon III in 1867 — inspired supposedly by Gabriel's theater at Versailles — but the emperor's fall left it incomplete and it was not used as a theater until 1991.

The second task is much harder. Whole areas of the French repertoire between the Baroque era and the 20th century, once immensely popular, have vanished almost without a trace, and with them names like Grétry, Philidor, Méhul, Auber and Thomas. Bringing them back, along with the relevant performing styles, looks about as easy as raising a lost continent.

Daniel-François-Esprit Auber (1782-1871) — whose opéra-comique "Le Domino Noir" opened the current season at Compiègne — is a prime example.

In the mid-19th century, he averaged an opéra-comique a season, usually in collaboration with Eugène Scribe, the tireless librettist and master of the "well-made" play.

Of these, only one ("Fra Diavolo") still has any place in the repertoire. Also, their "La Muette de Portici" is credited with creating the genre that became French grand opera. Much of what Auber and his colleagues did lives on mainly in the parodies of Offenbach.

"Le Domino Noir" (1837) is set in Spain, which gives Auber a chance to show off his skill at pastiche, with fandango, boleros and other bits of Spanish musical color, as well as his considerable melodic charm.

The title refers to the young woman who appears and disappears mysteriously at the queen's Christmas Eve masked ball, and Scribe's complex libretto is about the machinations that unite her with a young Spanish diplomat. Scribe's plot is full of effects without apparent causes, as Wagner said in another context.

The Compiègne production was agreeable without suggesting that an Auber revival is just around the corner. Sophie Fournier and Alain Gabriel, the soprano-tenor lead couple, acted and sang with appealing ease and charm. Michel Swierczewski conducted the Orchestre de Pi-

cardie with a light but firm touch. But Pierre Jourdan's was a bit too overproduced for the slowness of the vehicle.

The MC93 theater in suburban Bobigny was the venue for "I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I Saw the Sky," a collaboration of the composer John Adams, the poet June Jordan, and the stage director Peter Sellars. It is a kind of California ballad opera for the '90s, structured as a suite of 22 songs in which the composer assimilates styles from swing to gospel, rock and rap.

The title is a reference to the Los Angeles earthquake, which opens the second act as a catalyst for resolving the abrasive one-on-one relationships of a multiracial group of seven youthful characters. Until the quake hits, it all seems longwinded and aimless, despite some inventive individual numbers. After the quake, reality checks begin and the characters mostly decide to go it alone and try for love another day. All in all, a downbeat outlook for the multiracial society. The young cast was spirited and attractive. The Avant! chamber ensemble under Mary Chun delivered the score with a grasp of stylistic differences and lots of drive, and plenty of visual color was supplied by the graffiti panels done by a California art group called ICU.

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Austria

Cracks Show In Nation's Success Tale But Economy Is Still In Excellent Health

By Erik Kirschbaum

VIENNA — Chancellor Franz Vranitzky rarely lets an opportunity pass to brag about the prosperous Austrian economy, a subject that brings the normally reserved former banker to life.

Growth is steady. Productivity is up, inflation is low. The currency is strong. Recession is rare, brief and painless. Strikes are few and far between. And the industry is competitive in markets from Munich to Milan and Moscow to Miami. It is, says Mr. Vranitzky proudly, a success story.

The "Austrian model" that combines free-market capitalism with a surprisingly strong dose of Eastern European-style Socialism may not have started a revolution and doesn't have any imitators, although it probably would make Karl Marx smile.

In fact, the state that took control of industry after World War II to prevent the Soviets, ironically, from acquiring it is now somewhat belatedly trying to quicken the pace of privatization.

Wants to get its heavy and protective out as soon as possible and, at the time, badly needs cash to plug gaps in its federal budget.

Industrialized industry or not, there is nothing the fast Austria's economy. It has an enviable track record: Gross domestic product has climbed over the past 20 years and is expected to grow by a solid 2.7 percent in 1994, down from 3.0 percent in 1993, among the lowest levels in Europe thanks in part to the increased competitive pressures fol-



Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, left, and Jörg Haider, right, whose power may be boosted in December's elections.

lowing the country's accession to the European Union in January.

Unemployment has risen slightly to 4.6 percent compared with 4.4 percent in 1994, but that is still half the rate in Germany and a third of France's. Only Japan and Luxembourg have lower jobless rates among industrial nations.

Exports, which account for roughly 60 percent of the nation's manufacturing output, are expected to surge 8.5 percent in 1995 thanks in part to the EU's open market, an especially impressive performance in light of the schilling's strong appreciation alongside the Deutsche mark against many key currencies.

Productivity gained 2.5 percent in 1994 and is expected to rise by similar amounts in 1995 and in 1996, according to a forecast by the WIFO Institute of Economic Research.

"Our economy is in very good condition," said Economics Minister Jo-

hannes Ditz. "We've had growth and job creation over the last four years that is well above the average of other industrial nations. Our main tasks are to get public finances in order and dismantle the bureaucracy."

Private economists and industrial leaders agree with Mr. Ditz that the main threat to the economy is the government's deficits, which they fear are spinning out of control. The government is proud of its anti-recessionary pump priming in the early 1990s to deflect much of the impact of Western Europe's economic downturn, but it is finding it nearly impossible to take back the generous state handouts that Austrians view as a birthright.

Austrian workers, for example, receive two full years' paid maternity leave, twice as much as in Germany and neighboring countries, but are ready to march the streets in protest if the government tries to cut it back. The country's un-

employment is low, but held down artificially through a government-subsidized system that encourages companies to retire workers early and tacitly discourages women from working. The average retirement age in Austria is 57 years old, eight years lower than in Norway. Only one in eight Austrian workers over the age of 60 is still working.

"This is an especially expensive way to reduce the supply of labor on the job market," said Andreas Woerger, head of economics at Vienna's IHS Institute for Advanced Studies.

Further swelling the federal deficit is an enormous public sector, which employs 20 percent of the work force, compared with 15 percent in Germany. University educations are gratis and even wealthy families receive generous child-support payments of up to 2,000

Coalition Collapse Signals New Order

Far-Right Freedom Party Emerges As Real Winner in Big Upheaval

By John Dornberg

AUSTRIA'S political scene used to be reminiscent of a mélange — that mix of coffee and hot milk, which can be sweetened to just about everyone's taste. No problems, no friction, no real positions either.

But that cozy era ended with an acrimonious bang on Oct. 12, amid a dispute over how to reduce the fiscal 1996 budget deficit in order to meet criteria for European economic and monetary union.

Now, Austrians are scheduled to go to the ballot box Dec. 17 for their second general election in little more than a year.

The outcome is hard to predict: The only thing that seems certain is that the country is entering a period of political instability for the first time in half a century.

For most of the postwar period the "reds" and the "blacks" — the left-wing Social Democratic Party and the conservative Austrian People's Party — were married opposites in "grand coalitions," controlling anywhere between 75 and 90 percent of the seats in parliament between them, representing constituents — labor on the one side and state-owned industries on the other — that had a common interest in the country's ever-increasing economic pie.

The leader of whichever of the two parties was the stronger, was the federal chancellor; the head of the other served as vice-chancellor and usually also as foreign minister.

For the first 20 years from December 1945 until April 1966, the People's Party was the senior partner; the Social Democrats in second place. Then the People's Party won an absolute majority and governed alone for four years, only to lose the 1970 election to the Social Democrats, then led by Bruno Kreisky, who won more than half the seats in

parliament and ruled on their own for the next 13 years until the May 1983 election, when they had to join forces with the right-wing Freedom Party.

That odd coalition survived four years. In 1987, it was back to "red" and "black," this time with the Social Democrats the senior, and the People's Party the junior partner.

That's the way it was for the past eight years. Until the big split.

The Social Democratic leader, Franz Vranitzky, who had been reelected to his post at the party convention on Oct. 3 by 90 percent of the delegates' votes, was chancellor. Wolfgang Schüssel, previously economics minister, newly chosen as People's Party chairman by 95.5 percent of the delegates at his party's annual congress in April, was vice-chancellor and foreign minister.

But the partnership was far from happy, and had not been since the October 1994 general election.

That election was a political earthquake. Between them, the two coalition partners dropped from a 75 percent to a 63 percent share of the popular vote and lost 22 of their previous 140 seats in the 183-seat Nationalrat, the lower house of parliament. The Social Democrats decreased from 42.8 to 35.2 percent of the total, and from 80 to 66 seats. The People's Party dipped from 32.1 to 27.7 percent and from 60 to 52 seats.

The real winner of the election was the Freedom Party, led by populist Jörg Haider, a far-right nationalist who had run on an anti-foreigner, anti-Europe and "pro-Germanic culture" platform. His party's share of the popular vote rose from 16.6 to 22.6 percent, and its representation in parliament from 28 to 42 seats.

The Liberal Forum, a more moderate 1993 splinteroff from Mr. Haider's Freedom Party, led by the popular Heide Schmidt, scored a first-time-on-the-ballot triumph with 5.7 percent, obtaining 10 seats, and

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AUSTRIA / A SPECIAL REPORT

Haider Eyes Pinnacle of Power

By Erik Kirschbaum

VIENNA — He is vilified as the second coming of Adolf Hitler by some and worshipped as the savior of democracy of Austria by others.

He flirts with the far-right but wins votes from the center, left and right. He is called dangerous, xenophobic and unreliable by his many enemies but Jörg Haider is without doubt the country's most successful politician. He may also be its next chancellor.

In an era where the Social Democrats and conservatives who have run Austria since the war appear to be on a one-way slide out of power — losing votes every time they stand for election — Mr. Haider has led his Freedom Party from near oblivion in the mid-1980s to the brink of power with an unbroken string of electoral successes. Mr. Haider won 23 percent of the vote in the last national election a year ago and opinion polls now say he would win nearly 30 percent, five times the party's backing 10 years ago.

One million Austrians voted for Mr. Haider last year, making him Europe's strongest far-right leader. He will almost certainly be the big winner of the early elections due in December.

Conservative oratory coded

to appeal to that rather small but hardly insignificant segment of the population that has fond recollections of Hitler only partly explains Mr. Haider's success, although it gives his detractors plenty to talk about and fear.

What makes the charismatic Mr. Haider so popular, especially among voters under 30, is his determination to dismantle the two-party system of patronage that infiltrates (and he says suffocates) much of Austrian society. There is invariably a "red" Social Democrat and a "black" conservative party member sharing a powerful, well-paid position that in most other countries would be filled by one person.

"We have an oligarchy of two used-up parties that have dominated this country for too long," Mr. Haider said. "This country deserves better. Führung (leadership) than it's been getting. People want a political system where the parties and party memberships are not the most important thing. They want a country where the people come first. We want a democracy where the people will count most."

Although he angrily rejects comparisons to Hitler, Mr. Haider plays the "strong leader" and has cultivated a fiercely loyal following partly by breaking taboos, including his use of words and phrases that in German are linked inextricably to

the Nazis and generally avoided by latter-day German speakers. He talks about Führung. About creating a "Third Republic," which to many listeners sounds like "Third Reich," to replace Austria's post-war "Second Republic." He was rebuked in parliament earlier this year for calling the Nazi concentration camps "punishment camps." His praise of Hitler's labor policies caused such an outcry in 1991 that he was forced to resign as governor of the province of Carinthia. That, of course, did nothing to hurt his image among far-right voters.

But it is erroneous to believe that perhaps as many as one in three Austrians will vote for Mr. Haider in the next general elections and make him the next chancellor because of his flirtation with the far-right. He is going after the fat in Austrian society, the system of political spoils that is wonderful for those with party membership cards but a nightmare for most of the population on the outside.

"We are the only country in Europe where there is still a state monopoly on television and radio," Mr. Haider said. "Even Albania has an open media system. We are the only country with a state-financed press. What kind of democracy is that when the government can buy editorial opinions? What kind of democracy is that when workers are forced to join

trade associations and pay expensive dues?"

The telegenic Mr. Haider has a feast of easy targets in Austria. With his increasingly sharp and well-honed arguments in parliament he has often outdubbed Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. While television cameras often show a fatigued-looking Mr. Vranitzky stooped over the lectern in parliament reading his speeches in a gray monotone, the unabashed populist Mr. Haider never needs a prepared speech to whack away at the waste and abuse so prevalent in Austria.

His words strike a nerve in Austria, especially among the young. Mr. Haider says 33 percent of the voters between 19 and 29 will vote for him.

Mr. Haider's tough stance on foreigners in Austria appeals to some but frightens many. He demands tough laws to free the country of illegal immigrants, wants to empower the police to make systematic identity checks and has suggested using air force planes to fly foreigners back to their country of origin.

Business leaders say they have grown disappointed with Mr. Haider because he has a propensity to change directions completely. He first endorsed Austrian membership in the European Union and then bitterly opposed it.

They say they aren't worried, necessarily, about Austria's reputation being harmed abroad



Jörg Haider vows to be chancellor by 1998.

if he assumes a leading role in the next government, if he is the next vice chancellor. But a Chancellor Haider could cause the country embarrassment, business executives admit.

Mr. Haider, who vows to be chancellor by 1998, obviously doesn't see any problems with such a scenario.

When asked if Austria could

Right-Wing Party Gains as New Political Order Emerges

Continued from Page 13

the environmentalist Greens increased their share from 4.8 to 7 percent, their parliamentary representation from 10 to 13 seats.

It was a warning shot and both major parties wasted little time before drawing consequences.

Last March Mr. Vranitzky reshuffled his portion of the cabinet by sacking or nudging into retirement four of eight key cabinet members, all veterans of up to 16 years' government service. He replaced them with what he described as "new generation" backbenchers and former second-string junior min-

isters, hoping that way to breathe new life into Austria's tradition-bound left-wing party.

One month later the People's Party followed suit by rebelling against its longtime leader, Erhard Busek, and electing Mr. Schüssel, only 49 years old, to replace him as chairman.

As a result, by last May only five of the 21 full members and state secretaries of the Austrian cabinet were still in office or held the same portfolios that they had when it was formed after the October 1994 election.

But the realignment was largely cosmetic and failed to address the social, economic and political changes that have

been taking place in Austria during the past decade.

For one thing, both major parties are divided into conflicting wings and philosophies.

Among the Social Democrats, long plagued by a series of corruption scandals, there is a strong group that considers the traditional link with organized labor a dead-end street because of changed conditions in the country, and sees the party's future in an alliance with the Greens and the Liberal Forum.

The People's Party, a conglomeration of industrial, civil service and farm lobby interests, is also split into two major factions: right-wing conservatives who sympathize with the

even more rightist Freedom Party and would like to contract with it, provided, Mr. Haider tempers his tone, as he has started doing, and a more liberal market-economy group.

Complicating matters for both the Social Democratic and People's parties is the fact that many of Austria's big state-owned industries, in which both have a stake, have been privatized, so that the politicians' and government's influence over economic activities is much reduced.

The coalition pot began simmering in the summer, heated by Mr. Haider's sniping from the sidelines, and came to a boil in September during negotia-

tions over the 1996 budget. In their formal coalition contract of last year, both government parties had committed themselves to reducing the budget deficit by 10 percent annually, to the level needed for becoming part of a European monetary union. The argument was over how to reduce this year's 104 billion Austrian schillings (about \$10.4 billion) to 93 billion schillings for fiscal 1996.

Though budget talks had always been tough in Vienna, never before were positions as far apart as they were this fall.

Whereas the Social Democrats wanted to narrow the deficit through higher taxes and receipts from further privatization of state-owned industries, the People's Party insisted on cuts in the social safety net, in particular by imposing a penalty on early retirement, reducing unemployment benefits, and requiring higher patient contributions to hospital treatment under provisions of the national health service.

With an Oct. 22 constitutional deadline for a new budget looming, and neither side willing to give, the acrimonious debate turned into a round of public threats, positioning, muscle-flexing and bluffing in late September and the first week of October. On Oct. 12, when a last-minute compromise attempt failed, Mr. Schüssel and the People's Party pulled the plug. They declared the "red" and "black" marriage over, and introduced a parliamentary resolution calling for new elections. The measure passed unanimously the next day. For the next two months Austria will be governed by a caretaker administration.

But was the budget disagreement really the issue or just a pretense for political gamble? That is the question pundits in

Vienna have been asking, based on recent opinion surveys showing that in the six months since becoming its leader, Mr. Schüssel had succeeded in reversing the People's Party's flagging fortunes and that, if he struck while the iron was hot, they could emerge from an early election as the strongest party, making Mr. Schüssel chancellor of a coalition either with the Social Democrats or the Freedom Party.

Speculation about that kind of outcome was heightened by Mr. Vranitzky after the crucial vote had been taken in the National Assembly.

Asked about his plans after the Dec. 17 election, he said: "Two things are certain. I will not serve as vice-chancellor in a grand coalition, nor will the Social Democrats form a coalition with Jörg Haider and the Freedom Party."

But publicized opinion surveys indicate that none of the combinations being discussed may be possible.

According to one, the Social Democrats would get between 31 and 32 percent, down from 35 percent a year ago; The People's Party would score 28 to 29 percent, better than its 27.7 percent in October 1994; the Freedom Party would again increase its share — from 22.5 to between 24 and 25 percent.

Judging from another poll, all three major parties are running about even at between 28 to 30 percent each.

What is certain is that a majority of Austrians were and are opposed to a new election, just 14 months after the last one, and that Austria, after 50 postwar years of cozy political coalitions, is heading into a new era of instability.

JOHN DORNBERG is a journalist based in Munich.

Austria Celebrates 50 Years of Second Republic
Vienna Thanks Its Liberators

To mark the 50th birthday of the Second Republic, the City of Vienna decided to express its gratitude for the liberation. In Britain, France, Russia and the United States, Vienna has accordingly initiated or is supporting projects which will assist present-day citizens in those countries in the same way that the aid given by the Allies in the '40s helped the inhabitants of Austria. In London, for example, a "Special Needs Nursery School" has been set up.

The projects, which in each case were chosen in agreement with the country concerned, are intended to show appreciation of the way the four Allies contributed towards making life in the Vienna of 1945 more bearable. United States, the Soviet Union, France and Great Britain not only provided economic aid — for example through the Marshall Plan — but also helped many individuals by providing food and enabling children to take holidays during the difficult postwar period. To this day, many now-grown-up Viennese

women and men maintain very close contacts with their holiday hosts. The projects which Vienna is now backing similarly help people in dire straits and should be seen as a symbolic gesture of gratitude. It is hoped that people in Britain, France, Russia and the United States will regard them as a lasting token of our thanks.

A New Kindergarten for London

Together with the Lord Mayor of London and the Austrian Cultural Institute in Britain, it was decided that a project in the field of social welfare would be most appropriate: backing for the planned Special Needs Nursery School in Islington. Islington is a borough that was devastated by V-2 attacks during the war and is now pulsing with life. It is a multi-cultural working district where there is often insufficient money for welfare and healthcare. Thanks to financial help and know-how from the City of Vienna, the kindergarten planned for this area has been extended to form the Special Needs Nursery School. In addition to financial assistance, a close ongoing co-operation at the technical level is foreseen — for instance in the exchange of practical experience. Thanks to its own countless numbers of special kindergartens and special schools, Austria has extensive experience and practical skill in integrating disabled youngsters into a "normal" life. After spending some time at a special kindergarten, disabled children are often even able to attend a "regular" school. The need was long felt in London for a kindergarten of this sort, especially since Islington has such a large number of children.

The opening ceremony for this Special Needs Nursery School was conducted in the summer of 1995 by the Vienna Burgomaster and the Lord Mayor of London.



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AUSTRIA / A SPECIAL REPORT

Second Thoughts on EU as High Hopes Are Dashed

by Erik Kirschbaum

VIENNA — Austria marched triumphantly into the European Union in January with sterling membership credentials, widespread public backing, the right geography, a solid economy and an abundance of enthusiasm.

But less than a year after Austria's accession, the thrill is gone and disappointment has read from the Alpine peaks to the Vienna coffeehouses.

The EU hasn't been a cure for its ailments and lofty hopes that Austria would be able to take the EU "greener" have also gone up in a cloud of thick smoke.

Certainly, EU membership has had a positive impact on the country of just under eight million in the heart of Europe. It has opened up the country's outlook, prying away the residual isolation of the Cold War. EU membership has had a favorable impact on Austria's economy, where exports are booming thanks to the easier access to the world's largest free trade bloc. Foreign investment has surged and thousands of jobs have been created.

The population at large, however, is disappointed, in an ugly mood because the government's promises about the EU nirvana haven't been fulfilled and that while a small clutch of industrialists may be better off, the vast majority of ordinary people are paying more taxes, are being overrun by more EU traffic and are still waiting for the promised lower consumer prices.

"The EU entry is not a ticket to paradise, but I am still convinced that the many opportunities it presents far outweigh the risks," said Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, who is resigning after 11 years in office. He called on the no disunity. Vranitzky said Jan. 1, the date when the country joined the union, ranks among



Former Vice Chancellor Erhard Busek during the campaign for EU membership.

the most important in Austrian history. Enthusiasm for the EU has obviously faded, he added, but only "because people can't stay excited for such long periods."

His government whipped up unexpectedly strong support for the EU in a June 1994 referendum, where two-thirds of the voters backed membership. It is now nevertheless facing the unexpectedly vocal disenchantment from those who feel the EU has brought, at least ostensibly, considerable pain but little gain.

Opinion polls consistently show support for the EU has plunged and only 40 percent would now vote to join. A recent survey found 55 percent believed there were "no advantages" to EU membership and a further 27 percent saw "only disadvantages." The strongest foes of the EU are the elderly, women, and those with lower levels of education. Mr.

Vranitzky and his Social Democrats as well as the conservative People's Party he has been sharing power with pulled out all stops trying to persuade the electorate to vote yes on Europe. "guaranteeing" that the increased competition would send consumer prices plunging. They vowed EU membership would save each family 1,000 schillings (\$100) each month.

But since then voters have endured two government budget austerity drives that have cut, among other things, social spending in order to help pay for Austria's 30 billion schillings annual dues to the EU.

Their tax increases are especially infuriating because that was something the government said would only happen if they voted "no" on Europe.

Indeed, the budgetary pressures on the government were the decisive factor behind the

coalition's collapse earlier this month.

Despite their disenchantment with the government, consumers have seen that some prices have fallen, in particular for food. Economists say the annual inflation rate will be cut to 2.3 percent this year from 3.0 percent in 1994. But anyone who travels to neighboring Germany or especially Italy quickly discovers how expensive Austria still is.

Austrian media regularly feature price comparisons that reveal, for example, that brand-name blue jeans cost twice as much in Austria as they would in Italy. The EU found that Ford Scorpios were 55 percent more expensive in Austria than in Italy and Volkswagen Golfs were 31 percent dearer.

Cross-border shopping, as a result, has become a popular activity for thousands of Austrians, who will spend an estimated 25 billion schillings

shopping in Germany and Italy this year, up from 16 billion schillings in 1994.

Whipping up the anti-EU sentiment has been the leader of Austria's growing far-right, Jörg Haider, who said his panic-mongering about the EU has been vindicated. "The EU has been a bitter pill for Austria," he said. "People were manipulated and brain-washed into voting 'yes' by government propaganda. The country was poorly prepared for it and we're paying far too much to Brussels. We need to renegotiate the payments."

Economics Minister Johannes Ditz said that Austria's payments to Brussels have indeed exacerbated the federal government's budget woes, making it more difficult for Austria to reduce its deficits far enough to qualify for the proposed single European currency later this decade. But Mr. Ditz said that the advantages of membership have completely eclipsed the disadvantages.

"We now have open markets without barriers and for a small country like Austria that is absolutely vital in this day and age," said Mr. Ditz. "In this first phase, the prices have fallen and they are still moving lower. The problem is that prices in Italy are so much lower because of the lira's depreciation. Naturally, there were many protected sectors that are now having to compete. Now people find it easier to blame Brussels when things go wrong instead of Vienna."

Scrambling to shore up support among the increasingly skeptical public, the government plans to launch an advertising campaign this year to point out the EU's advantages. It will note that companies such as BMW, Sony and Grundig have made production capacity investments in Austria because of the EU.

There are many more promising aspects of Austria's accession to the EU that are less

tangible than the price of butter. The country, although still sleepy and somewhat introverted, has clearly taken strides towards more openness thanks to the EU. A spirit of competitiveness, once anathema, has emerged in many industrial sectors and the pace of life, although still comfortable, has certainly gained speed.

"Life is still a little too pleasant and too complacent in Austria," said Guido Schmid-Chiarra, chief executive of Creditanstalt-Bankverein.

"Those are the facts of life in Austria. We're not yet sufficiently open-minded to the outside world. We have to be more outward-looking, to grasp the opportunities to be found among our immediate neighbors. The EU is helping change that outlook."

Although Austria under the Hapsburg empire that ended with World War I was in the heart of Europe politically and geographically, it has spent the Cold War decades on the eastern fringe of the free world. Left out of the EU because of its 1955 promise to the Soviet Union of "permanent neutrality," the country spent long lonely decades fretting about its lost empire.

The decay was especially evident in Vienna, once the mecca of the sprawling Hapsburg empire. The city's population was actually declining through the mid-1980s and young Austrians in a hurry were chasing careers in Germany and farther afield.

That exodus was already being arrested by the time the Iron Curtain became porous in 1989, and the country's entry into the EU has injected further life into the city.

"The EU has had a tremendously positive effect," said Mr. Ditz. "It's opened Austria up, given us all sorts of opportunities. There may not be any euphoria about the EU, but I think that, deep down inside, most Austrians have a good feeling about belonging."

Liberals: A Small but Growing Force

VIENNA — Heide Schmidt was a senior deputy to Jörg Haider in the Austrian Freedom Party, but found his swerve to the far right increasingly intolerable. So she created her own party with four other Haider defectors and less than two years later the Liberal Forum had won an improbable 6 percent of the vote and 10 seats in parliament.

"A lot of people thought that was some kind of miracle, but I was convinced there was a segment of the population that ached for a truly liberal party," Ms. Schmidt said in an interview. "It was becoming increasingly irresponsible the way Herr Haider was dealing with people in the party and especially his treatment of foreigners. I consider him dangerous."

And because the two major established parties, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky's Social Democrats and the conservative People's Party, also considered Mr. Haider's steep ascent dangerous to their lock on power, they were eager to see his party split in half. Ms. Schmidt was supposed to be a bulwark against Mr. Haider, but the trouble for the Social Democrats and the conservatives was that Ms. Schmidt was ironically hurting them far more than Mr. Haider. So they help abruptly stopped. Her name appears less frequently these days in state-owned television newscasts and the nation's newspapers have also cooled to her.

"It appeared to be important that a counterweight to Haider was established," said Ms. Schmidt. "We were received well everywhere at first. But as soon as the other parties saw we were taking votes away from them well, that sentiment changed quite quickly."

Critics say the party will exit parliament as fast as it entered because it has taken up crusades that conservative Austrians, whether liberal or not, don't necessarily



Liberal leader Heide Schmidt.

want to be confronted with. She quit the Catholic Church in a very public way earlier this year when church leaders were reluctant to address accusations that the Archbishop of Vienna had sexually abused a pupil two decades ago.

She is fighting for a clearer separation of church and state in Austria, a country where crucifixes hang in classrooms and public buildings. She is pushing for laws to allow same-sex marriages and she wants to decriminalize soft drugs, perhaps even allow them to be sold over the counter in pharmacies. She wants to allow women to join the army. These controversial sug-

gestions have cost her some voter support.

"A new party has to fight hard every day to be recognized," Ms. Schmidt said. "We have no interest in populist solutions or black and white polemics. We're addressing these minority issues that no one else wants to get near. You can't run away from these things. We've got a solid voter base of around 6 percent and I think we can build step by step on that."

A 46-year-old attorney whose parents were Sudeten Germans expelled from Czechoslovakia after World War II, Ms. Schmidt was born in Germany but moved to Vienna when she was two years old. She still speaks high German even though she has lived in Vienna for more than four decades and only became an Austrian citizen when she was in her 20s.

She became a household name in Austria during the 1980s when she ran a popular television program called the "People's Attorney," where she defended ordinary people with grievances against the city, state or corporations.

Mr. Haider, whose mastery of imagery is unmatched in Austria, spotted her television talent and hauled her into the party leadership. She was the party's general secretary and in 1992 ran an unexpectedly successful race for the Austrian presidency.

Ms. Schmidt fared well in televised debates and against all odds won nearly 17 percent of the vote but the split between her and Mr. Haider was deepening. In February 1993, she left.

"I'm very optimistic about our future," she said. "We're two years old and in many ways like a small child. We're growing but far from perfect. There's still a lot of growing we have to do."

Erik Kirschbaum

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AUSTRIA / A SPECIAL REPORT

Banking Reform Ruffles Vienna

By Erik Kirschbaum

VIENNA — Post-war Austria has kept an astonishingly tight grip on its economy and especially its proud if protected banking sector.

The government that until the mid-1980s signed the paychecks for more than 40 percent of the nation's workforce has only recently begun to turn the nation's business over to businessmen.

But the pace of change is accelerating. Not only did Austria's entry into the European Union in January expose the nation's banks to chillier winds of competition, a forthcoming wave of banking privatizations promises to further shake up Vienna's financial world. The reverberations from those twin tremors will invigorate the manufacturing sector, analysts hope, and may finally stimulate investor interest in the Vienna Bourse, which been stuck in a long slump since a 60 percent spurt in 1993.

"The controlled consolidation in the banking center will bring a lot of advantages, in particular cost-cutting," said Adolf Wala, general director of the Austrian National Bank, the country's central bank. He said in an interview that recent tax reforms that have cut and reduced levies on corporations and on investment have helped improved Austria's standing as a financial center. Backing confidence in the banking sector is the country's strong currency, its well-functioning banking sector and steady economic growth with low inflation, he added. "Everywhere you look you see positive points. I am very optimistic about our future."

While Vienna as a center of finance will never be confused with London, Frankfurt or even Zurich, its ambitions of shaking off eight decades of lethargy to once again become the hub for banking in Central and Eastern Europe certainly appear within reach. The planned privatization of Creditanstalt-Bankverein AG, which has over the past 10 years rebuilt its network in

that region, is expected to further boost Austrian banking links to the region. It may also provide a model for a wider reform of the overstuffed, overbanked, inefficient sector whose profits lag behind rivals in Germany and Switzerland.

There is one bank branch office for every 995 Austrians compared with one office for every 1,540 in Germany and Austrian bank workers earn 11 percent more than their German counterparts. The return on equity assets ranks among the lowest in Western Europe.

The Austrian National Bank reported that operating profits among Austrian banks rose slightly in the first half of the year, but forecast full year earnings will be down to about 41 billion schillings (about \$4 billion) from 42 billion last year. Such figures belie, however, some startling sloven practices compared with Western European banking standards.

A private investor eager to buy dollars at one of Austria's largest banks was told that there weren't any dollars to be had because trade in the dollar had been "suspended."

Another investor wanted to buy shares in this month's initial public offering of the specialty steel maker, VA Stahl AG, but made the mistake of trying to make the purchase just before the banker's lunch break. After first being told the issue had been "sold out" just hours after the three-day subscription began, the investor insisted and the banker finally reluctantly agreed.

A shakeup may be nearing. After years of tortuous negotiations, the federal government is now moving to sell its 70 percent stake in the voting shares of Creditanstalt-Bankverein, the nation's second-largest bank. The 140-year-old Creditanstalt, historically a bastion of the conservative People's Party, has been left standing at the altar for four years, the victim of the two main parties' failure to agree on an acceptable suitor for what politicians of all stripes here regard as one of Austria's crown jewels.

Finance Minister Andreas



Guido Schmidt-Chiari, chief of Creditanstalt.

Staribacher, a former tax auditor, has tried to cut through the impasse with a new recipe: an appeal to look at the bottom line. Struggling to plug vast holes in the federal deficit, Mr. Staribacher has raised hopes that the bank's sale will raise as much as 18 billion schillings for the state's depleted coffers, twice the amount earlier suitors were ready to pay. A Social Democrat, Mr. Staribacher is counting on a big check to silence those who oppose the deal for political reasons.

Economics Minister Johannes Ditz, his counterpart from the conservative People's Party, says he is all for a speedy privatization but warns that the Austrian investors need to be part of the bid. "I say we need strong banks in Austria not because I am a nationalist, but because I am opposed to Creditanstalt becoming just a branch office of a foreign bank," Mr. Ditz said.

While the bank's privatization was again put on hold when the government collapsed earlier this month, some officials are hoping that the delay will allow foreign suitors such as Credit Suisse and Germany's Allianz, which backed away in recent years out of concern of

the politics of the privatization, to make new bids. Others such as General Electric Capital of the United States and the Dutch ING Postbank may also be among the bidders. "It will be a good thing once the process comes to an end," said Guido Schmidt-Chiari, chief executive of Creditanstalt. Creditanstalt's sale, when it comes, would open the way for further banking privatizations. Bank Austria AG, the nation's largest bank, is also in the hands of the federal government and the city of Vienna.

And the country's third largest bank, GiroCredit Bank, will also be testing the waters of private ownership soon. The central institution of Austrian savings banks plans to raise 2 billion schillings by converting participation certificates into non-voting preference shares and issuing warrants with the new preference shares. The preference shares will be listed on the stock exchange.

"The banking system in Austria has been overregulated for too long and things are now changing fast, perhaps too fast," said Herbert Kaspar, director at GiroCredit. "It is like a bottle of ketchup. It is all coming out at once."

Declining Tourism Hits Economy

By John Dornberg

The Austrian National Tourist Office started an advertising campaign this year in the European Union — which accounts for nearly 90 percent of the country's foreign visitors and 80 percent of its travel-related foreign currency — urging EU citizens to "Come and See the New Member!"

But the advertising campaign, started when Austria joined the EU, seems to be having little effect. In fact, the number of tourists, which has been declining steadily since 1992, took another dip in the first half of 1995, causing alarm at the Austrian National Bank due to the rise in the current account deficit.

It used to be boasted in Vienna that one in every 20 foreign trips taken anywhere in the world led to Austria. And as recently as 1991 the country still registered about 18 million foreign visitors, who spent more than 161 billion schillings (\$16.2 billion).

Those were the days of Austria's "tourism boom." They're long over and the impending bust could have serious ramifications for the economy as a whole, because the tourism industry is one of its major pillars.

Revenues from tourism have traditionally accounted for about 8 percent of Austria's gross domestic product, rising to 15 percent if leisure and related industries are added. About 164,000 people earn salaries working in hotels and restaurants, while another 100,000 are self-employed in the sector.

If workers in related tourist-dependent activities, such as shops at vacation resorts, travel and tourist agencies, and leisure facilities, are added, the figure rises to about 400,000 jobs, or about 13 percent of the total labor force.

Net foreign currency earnings from tourism in the past have compensated for more than 60 percent of Austria's deficit in foreign trade of goods and services, which in 1994 amounted to 116.3 billion schillings and topped 35 billion schillings during the first quarter of 1995.

Since 1992, which was stag-



A street in Salzburg: Foreign tourism is declining.

nant, net foreign currency earnings from tourism have declined steadily: down by 3 percent in 1993, almost 6 percent in 1994, with another drop forecast for 1995, based on figures for the first five months.

Fewer people are coming, and they are spending less. Overnight stays by foreigners declined by 2.9 percent in 1993 compared with 1992, by 4.8 in 1994, and were down by another 8.3 percent in the first quarter of 1995 compared with the corresponding period in 1994, and by 19.8 percent in March of this year compared with March 1994.

In actual figures, overnight stays dropped from a record 130 million to 120 million in 1994. "This year," says Herbert Peter, president of the Austrian Hotel Association, "we will consider ourselves lucky if we total 115 million."

In better years, West Europeans accounted for most of the tourists to Austria, with Germans usually making up two-thirds of the total, or around 12 million, followed by the Dutch at 8.7 percent, Britons at 3.8 percent, and then tourists from

and 80 cents for a bowl of water for the family dog in Salzburg. For Italians, with their weak lira, the country has become virtually unaffordable.

The Austrians have simply priced themselves out of the market. It used to be common for people in Southern Germany to drive the 90 minutes to Kitzbühel for weekend skiing. Now, it is cheaper to drive through Austria and on to Italy, even though there is a hefty toll at the Brenner Pass. The hotels and cross-country trails are just as good.

Hotels have mu-roomed everywhere, but they are mass production mode buildings with false-front wood carvings that are machine-made in a sawmill.

The more popular places are also overcrowded, so that service and hospitality suffer. Solden, for example, is a town of 2,700 which in the 1994 winter season registered one million overnight stays and 320,000 in the summer season.

Since 1981 the number of first-class and deluxe hotels has increased from 100,000 to more than 160,000, and the number of three-star hotels has gone up from 190,000 to more than 240,000.

"The entire industry, made up mainly of small family enterprises, is hopelessly indebted to the amount of about 130 billion schillings," says Mr. Peter. "Many hotels have had to reschedule loans with their banks."

The end of Communism in Central and Eastern Europe has also had an effect on Austria's tourism industry.

On the one hand, there has been a steady flow of visitors from Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland. But many of these are day-trippers, with little money to spend, who come mainly to look around Vienna, or bus groups that, at best, have raised the occupancy rates of the cheaper hotels.

On the other hand, the opening up of Eastern Europe has brought competition to Vienna from Budapest and Prague. "Tourism will remain a problem sector of the economy," according to the Austrian government's mid-year economic forecast.

Cracks in Austrian Success Story

Continued from Page 13

schillings (\$200) per child per month double the amount German families receive.

"We must recognize the time of smoked salmon and caviar is past," said Finance Minister Andreas Staribacher, who is struggling to bring the federal deficit down to 3 percent of GDP by 1998 from about 4.5 percent in 1995 in order to put Austria on track to be a founding member of Europe's proposed single currency later this decade.

The total government debt is now about 64 percent of GDP, just above the 60 percent limit

spelled out by the Maastricht Treaty on Economic and Monetary Union.

The increasingly tight budget battles between Mr. Vranitzky's Social Democrats, which have been in power for 46 of the last 50 years and for the last 25 years straight, and his junior coalition partner, the conservative People's Party, led to the coalition's collapse earlier this month three years before the next scheduled election.

Although the deficits, debt and inflation levels compare favorably with other European countries and EMU aspirants, financial markets have started to watch the government spend-

ing more closely.

It has overshoot its budget by up to 50 percent in each of the last three years and economists

"We must recognize that the time of caviar is past."

warn that if the government cannot contain its profligate spending ways, foreign investors may start demanding a premium over German interest rates — a move that could

quickly trigger a widely feared attack against the schilling's 20-year peg to the German mark.

Higher interest rates would blow an even larger hole in the deficit, forcing far deeper cuts. "We don't want a Swedish model here," says Vice Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel, the foreign minister, referring to the foreign exchange traders who quickly drove down the value of the Swedish krona a few years ago, once they sensed the budget deficits were out of control.

Mr. Schüssel, formerly the Economics Minister under the previous Vice Chancellor Erhard Busek, has revived the conservative People's Party's flagging fortunes by redirecting the party's focus to the economy.

Austria's entry to the EU has jolted the economy in a mostly positive way. The export industries are thriving in the bigger market, producing car components for the big German car makers to fit north and specialty steel goods processed foods and chemical destined for markets in Central and Eastern Europe.

Mr. Ditz estimates that two-thirds of Austrian manufacturers are thriving because of the EU entry while a third, in particular the once-protected sectors, are suffering.

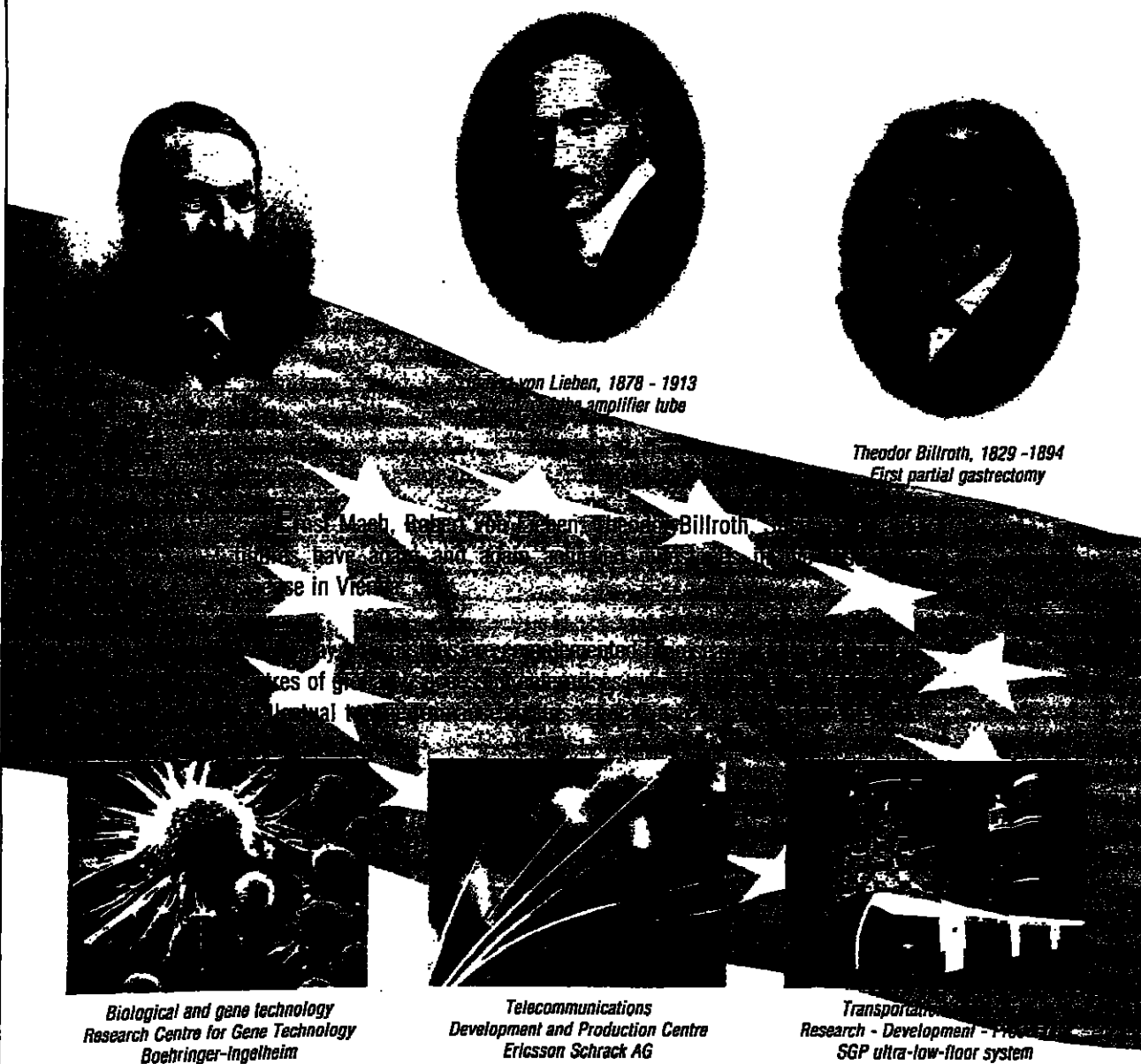
The small Austrian jam maker Darbo is a telling example. Its sales have soared by 5 percent this year because it can sell its products across the border in Germany now. Austria's exports of cheese, sausage, and ham and other specialties have also surging into markets opened in January.

While the economy as a whole is faring well, two sectors are slumping, but not necessarily because of the EU. One is construction, which is suffering because of overcapacity and because of a slowdown in demand.

The other is tourism, the sector, which employs 120,000 Austrians and provides a source of income and infrastructure for many parts of the country who would otherwise be depressed has been contracting in recent years. The main reason is the schilling's strength against currencies such as the lira, making Austria an expensive destination for many Europeans. German tourism has also declined.

ERIK KIRSCHBAUM, who formerly covered Austria for Reuters, is a freelance writer based in Berlin.

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AUSTRIA / A SPECIAL REPORT

Coffeehouse Society: A Philosophy of Life

By John Dornberg

COFFEE, according to Charles de Talleyrand, "must be hot as hell, black as the devil, pure as an angel, and sweet as love."

Talleyrand, Napoleon's foreign minister, allegedly coined that phrase after one of his frequent visits to Vienna where he became addicted to the brew and as an antidote to the city's numerous coffeehouses. Likened to a "second home," the Austrian capital, it is probably apocryphal for Austria is a land of pious belief where legend is often preferable to documented fact.

That is indisputable is that coffee was already the most popular beverage and that coffeehouses were already in abundance as entrenched Viennese institutions during Talleyrand's time. Indeed, the Viennese coffeehouses, which are often described as "a way of life" and others as "an entire philosophy," have their roots in the Ottoman Turkish empire of the city in 1683.

When the Turks retreated, they abandoned many sacks of roasted coffee beans which a Viennese first mistook for melon fodder. But two men, either of them Austrians — Georg Franz Kolschitzky, a Pole, and Johannes Diodato, an Armenian — knew better, for

they had worked as Austrian spies behind the Turkish lines.

Kolschitzky accepted the "camel fodder" as reward for his services to the Hapsburgs, roasted the beans, ground them to powder, then brewed and served the result to skeptical Viennese in the "House to the Blue Bird," a café he opened near St. Stephen's Cathedral. A plaque marks the spot. Diodato was given an imperial monopoly on brewing and serving the "Turkish drink" in January 1685, when he opened his coffeehouse at what is now No. 14 Rotenturmstrasse.

Coffee soon became a craze and the number of cafés multiplied in the early 1700s. By the middle of the 18th century the Viennese coffeehouse in its present form was well established: scores of newspapers and magazines for patrons to read, many with chess, card and billiard tables, some with afternoon concerts or piano music, a number with terrace or sidewalk service in the summer, a few renowned for pastries, most open 15 and more hours daily, and each like a private club whose members insist it is superior to every other café.

And despite a few setbacks caused by the vicissitudes of history, politics and economics, the institution flourished.

Countless are the novels and plays written, the symphonies and operas composed, the art

and architectural movements instigated, and the wars and revolutions plotted at the small marble-topped tables or in the plush-upholstered booths of Viennese cafés.

Mozart frequented Café Einspögl; Franz Schubert, a coffee addict who had his own grinder, the monotonous sound of which, he claimed, inspired his D-minor quartet, regularly played billiards at Café Bognar. Both cafés are long gone. But Café Frauenhuber, where Beethoven occasionally performed new piano sonatas for friends and customers, still exists at its original location, No. 6 Himmelpfortgasse. (Open daily except Sundays, 7 A.M. to 10 P.M.)

Johann Strauss made his debut as a violinist at Café Dommayr, an 18th century spot still at No. 1 Dommayrgasse in Hietzing, the leafy, tree-shaded 13th district of Vienna (open daily 8 A.M. to midnight). Franz Lehar, the operetta composer, was a regular at Café Sperl, opened in 1880 and unchanged since then except for new billiard tables and a facelift in the 1980s. The Sperl, at No. 11 Gumpendorfer Str. in the 6th district, was also used by Franz Werfel, Gustav Mahler, and the principal artists and architects of Vienna's Jugendstil period. (Daily except Sundays 7 A.M. to 11 P.M.)

Dramatist Arthur Schnitzler and poet Hugo von Hof-

mannsthal did the bulk of their work in Café Griensteidl, a short-lived literary mecca of the late 19th century, where Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, drafted his pamphlet Der Judenstaat (The Jewish State) which became the movement's manifesto and platform.

But back again since 1983, the tricentennial of coffee in Vienna, is Café Central, at No. 14 Herrengasse (Mondays through Fridays 9 A.M. to 7 P.M., Saturdays until 2 P.M.). This was the hangout of Stefan Zweig, Karl Kraus, Egon Erwin Kisch and Lev Davidovich Bronstein (aka Leon Trotsky). That Trotsky was also plotting the Russian Revolution while contemplating chess moves and sipping his mélange, a concoction of half black coffee, half hot milk, sugared to individual taste, was common knowledge, but no one took him seriously.

Many towering figures used the coffeehouses not only as their studies, studios, libraries and offices but as their permanent, and only, addresses.

Thus, the coffeehouse was described as "a kind of home away from home" and as "a place for those who want to be alone but need company while at it." Orson Welles reputedly did his "best thinking in a Viennese café," to which he was introduced while making the movie The Third Man. The comment that best sums up the

coffeehouse spirit is attributed in 1917 to Austria-Hungary's foreign minister, Count Czernin, when informed by an aide that revolution had indeed broken out in Russia. "Oh come, come, good man," said Czernin. "Who would want to make a revolution there? Perhaps that Herr Trotsky who plays chess at the Café Central? Don't make me laugh."

Though Vienna is no longer the capital of an empire and much less the center of Europe's literary, art and music world, its coffeehouse lifestyle continues unabated.

The Vienna phone book lists more than 2,000 coffeehouses and cafés, of which about 500 are café-restaurants in which some of the marble-topped tables are covered with linen and place-settings between noon and 2 P.M. for lunch customers, and 260 are *kaffee-konditoreien*, that is, *kaffee-pâtisseries*, in which the pastries are a more important feature than the coffee or ambience.

Some are seedy neighborhood spots, comparable to and serving the role of corner taverns, in which the dust has coagulated, the wallpaper is of a dark nicotine hue, the bentwood Thonet chairs are precariously rickety, and the springs push through the threadbare red plush benches of the booths.

Others have famous pedigrees, such as Beethoven's Frauenhuber, the Eiles, No. 2 Josefstadtstrasse, which was the first café outside Vienna's medieval walls, and the Museum Café, No. 2 Friedrichstrasse (open daily 7 A.M. to midnight), designed at the turn of the century by modernist architect Adolf Loos.

A number, such as the Central, the Sperl and Café Landmann, No. 4 Karl-Lueger-Ring (daily 8 A.M. to midnight), are under landmark protection.

To be sure, some things have changed, notably that the coffee in all but the best of them now comes from an espresso machine and is no longer brewed and filtered in the kitchen.

Gone, too, is *café à la carte*, a card of enamel color spots, each numbered, ranging the spectrum from black through shades of brown and gold to pale blond. Each shade denoted how much cream was to be added to the pure coffee in the kitchen.

But far more has remained the same. The Viennese café is still characterized by the four "C's" of coffee, culture, communication and conviviality.

Waiters — one addresses them all as Herr Ober unless one knows the name — are still



A Vienna coffeehouse: A place where you can sit over a cup for eight hours.

like gods demanding to be beckoned down from Mount Olympus, and most of them respond to your call, if at all, in slow motion.

In Viennese cafés, coffee is both the most and least important thing in them.

It is least important because the least reason for going to a café is to drink coffee. You go, and stay all day if you wish, for all the other amenities, services, newspapers, games and ambience that a coffeehouse provides. Ordering coffee (or pastry, a glass of wine, a sandwich) is but the price of admission. Once in, there is no other fee. As Orson Welles said: "A Vienna café is the only place in the world where you can sit unmolested for eight hours or longer, drink but a single cup of coffee, and still be treated like a king."

At the same time, coffee is the most important thing because ordering and drinking it

entails mastery of a pseudo-science and mysterious language that non-Viennese will probably never understand. The hurdle, even if your German is fluent, begins with the fact that coffee or *ein kaffee* is never what you order in a Vienna coffeehouse. The request will merely net a blank stare from the Herr Ober. One must ask for a specific variety of coffee, and at last count there were 41.

If you prefer black coffee ask for a *kleinen* or *grossen schwarzen*, that is a small or large black one. If you want it a little weaker, than add the word *verlängert*, meaning lengthened, or if stronger than the norm, then *gekürzt*, which means shortened. A *brauner* (*grosser* or *kleiner*) is coffee with cream or milk added in the kitchen, and if you prefer to mix it yourself, then order a *kaffee crème*.

A *schalegold* is coffee mixed with cream in such a way that it attains a golden color, making it lighter than a *brauner*.

Of the hundreds of coffeehouses in Vienna, one today is still closest to what one imagines they were like at the turn of the century: Café Hawelka, No. 6 Dorotheergasse (open daily except Tuesdays 8 A.M. to 2 A.M., Sundays from 4 P.M.). In interior decorating terms it is a catastrophe and seedily bohemian. But practically from the time it opens until closing time it is crowded. The guest book reads like a who's who in the arts, music and literature: Arthur Miller, Elias Canetti, Günter Grass, Heimito von Doderer, Pavel Kohout, Andy Warhol, Herbert von Karajan, to name a few.

Café has become an institution within an institution. Stefan Zweig described that institution as "the best educational establishment for all that is new." Three centuries after the Turks left their "camel fodder" at the city's walls, Vienna's most comfortable schools are still open for classes.

The Pawnshop That Went Upmarket

VIENNA — Viennese call her Tante Dorothea — Aunt Dorothy — and she's almost 290 years old. She was born in 1707 and Hapsburg Emperor Joseph I was the father.

Aunt Dorothy has the kindest heart in the world and the biggest bargains. Within minutes, no questions asked, she'll lend you a few schillings to a few million, accepting as collateral anything from a rusty hammer to an Old Master painting. She also offers unique opportunities in bric-a-brac, garage-sale treasures, kitsch, porcelain, jewelry and fine art.

Through it is the fine art that is making news these days, she does a multitude of things with a cornucopia of objects and services. She is a pawn broker and a banker; she buys and sells heirlooms; she deals in and appraises valuables. She is the last resort for the momentarily impulsive, as well as a purveyor of flea market finds.

And she is now also one of the world's largest auctioneers, in a league with Sotheby's and Christie's.

Poets have written odes to her, composers have immortalized her in song, princes and paupers, the famous and the infamous have patronized her.

When she beckons with her bargains, which is a least three times daily and nearly 1500 times a year, it is like a siren's call for collectors and connoisseurs.

Aunt Dorothy is one of Vienna's big tourist attractions. She is owned by the Austrian government and her formal title is Dorotheum Auktions-Veranstaltungsgesellschaft, which translates as Dorotheum Auction, Lending & Bank Society Ltd.

A pawn brokerage and auction house, yes "But," as Alfred Karny, the general manager, emphasizes, "the oldest, largest and most unusual one in the world."

Last year the institution re-

ported a record business volume of more than 1.51 billion schillings (about \$151 million), an increase of 2 percent on 1993. Though pawnbroking, the Dorotheum's primary mission since the 18th century, banking, trading and dealing in real estate remain a substantial part of the business, these have been overshadowed by the auction activities, which accounted for 802 million schillings, more than half the 1994 volume and a 6 percent increase on 1993. The fine art and antiques share of this grew by 17 percent.

More than 500,000 objects changed hands last year. On average the inventory in the vaults

Virtually anything is accepted for sale, from pins and needles to entire households and even aircraft.

and warehouses numbers 350,000 pieces.

Besides the vast six-story neo-Baroque headquarters, the Dorotheum has 22 branches with 13 in various districts of Vienna, eight in other Austrian cities, and one in Prague. It employs nearly 600 people.

In the main building there are usually three or four auctions daily, gems, watches, china, ceramics, glass, silver, furs and carpets to furniture, old guns, books, musical instruments, photographic and optical equipment, typewriters, sewing machines, video recorders, home appliances, even vintage cars and motorcycles.

"We accept virtually anything and everything as a

pledge or commission object for auction and direct sale, and there is almost nothing that we do not disperse," says Mr. Karny. "It ranges from pins and needles to entire households and whole factories. We have even accepted and sold aircraft. And everything sells. Sometimes it may take a while, and we may be forced to mark down, but eventually every object finds a buyer or bidder."

The origins go back to Emperor Joseph I's indignation over the "widespread plague of usury" and money lenders who were charging interest rates of up to 173 percent.

He decreed the establishment of a *banco della pietà*, an imperial pawn brokerage, where "in time of need anyone can borrow by pawning a pledge at a small fee and reasonable rate of interest." He stipulated that profits of this "bank of piety" be donated to charity.

For more than 270 years the Dorotheum, named for its location at the former abbey of St. Dorothea, did operate as a non-profit foundation administered by the Austrian Interior Ministry.

It was reorganized in 1979 as a limited stock company, all of whose shares are owned by the Austrian government. Nowadays Aunt Dorothy is supposed to show a profit, and does. "We have become a major business enterprise," Mr. Karny says.

In the 1980s Mr. Karny turned the Dorotheum into a major player on the art market. The fine art department, located

three entrances down the street from the main building, at 11 Dorotheergasse, in the Kunstpalais, has become increasingly important for dispersals of Old Masters, 19th century Austrian and German paintings, and modern as well as contemporary Viennese art. The price list in 1994 auctions was a painting by Egon Schiele that sold for 6.5 million schillings.

Among the lots offered at the Oct. 17 Old Masters dispersal were works by Dirk Bouts, Jan Brueghel the Younger, Jan van Goyen, Salomon van Ruysdael and Pieter Wouwerman, with estimates of \$100,000 and up.

As a sign of its expansionist mood and strategy, the Dorotheum opened a representative office in Tokyo last year and, in cooperation with the International Association of Auctioneers, an office in Hong Kong last March. It also has an office in Munich. On Nov. 11 it will hold its first auction at the Prague branch. It is planning an art dispersal in Singapore next year.

"We are now one of the world's leading art auction houses, listed in fifth place by the Art Sales Index, after Sotheby's, Christie's, Phillips and Ader Tajan," says Mr. Karny. "We are aiming to be in fourth place by the end of this year."

Aunt Dorothy may not be quite what she used to be at the grand old age of 288. But she still has a kind heart and offers some real bargains.

John Dornberg

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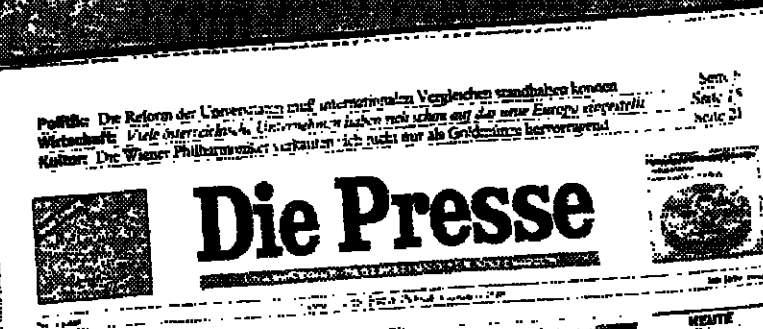
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equipped kitchenette, satellite-TV, hi-fi stereo, telephone (with answering device), PC- und fax-connections. Tenants also have at their disposal a reception desk, a café-restaurant and an in-house underground garage. Minimum tenancy is one week.

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AUSTRIA VIENNA CITY: IMMACULATELY RENOVATED JUGENDSTIL HOUSE

This beautiful downtown Vienna house in Austrian art nouveau style was planned in 1913 by the well-known architect Baron. It was designed as a double apartment-house with shop premises. From early on after its construction in 1913 the building was used mainly for the offices and the administration of the "Einkaufshaus", one of the Monarchy's largest steel-works. The interiors were carried out by the famous Viennese architect Joseph Hoffmann. The whole building has cellars which have been fitted out in the most modern manner and is suitable for business purposes. The whole ground floor (including the well-known Marble Hall by Joseph Hoffmann) can be used for shop premises. The first floor (likewise fitted out by Joseph Hoffmann) has been in use for offices. On the top floor with the two towers there is an extensive, almost completed, penthouse apartment. The whole property has been renovated at considerable expense, over the past twenty years so that the basic substance of the building, which was constructed in first-rate manner of the finest materials, is now in the best overall condition. With a total site-area of 1117 m², the total utilisable floor-area amounts to 5488 m². A floor-area of 3538 m² is immediately available (basement, the whole ground floor, the whole first floor and the penthouse apartment). The purchase price amounts to (US\$) 9,400,000. Potential buyers are invited to apply for a detailed expose of this magnificent property.

ROMANTIC VILLA IN BADEN WITH HISTORICAL

This dreamlike villa was built 1883-84 by Archduke Wilhelm. Used originally by him mainly as a hunting lodge the building was subsequently acquired by his nephew Archduke Eugen, since when it has been known as the "Eugen Villa". It is barely 45 minutes drive away from the centre of Vienna and is easily accessible from a nearby motorway exit-point. The whole villa property (including the annex) has been renovated during the past twenty years at considerable expense. The villa itself has a floor area of 1,154 m²; the annex with horse-stables has a floor area of 2,704 m². The total site area amounts to 53,638 m². The property is available for immediate acquisition.

AUSTRIA SCHLOSS BAUMGARTEN

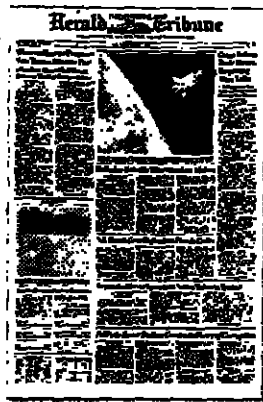
This wonderfully-restored castle property is superbly situated, about 45 minutes from Vienna, on the West Motorway. The Schloss itself is in prime condition thanks to continuous renovation work over the past twenty years. The Schloss has two floors with a partial basement. The total site area amounts to 72,356 m². The castle park, surrounded by a wall with the Schloss at its centre, covers approximately 48,000 m². The Schloss itself comprises 60 rooms as well as attachments. In a new annex there is a very fine swimming-pool. Separated from the Schloss there is a housekeeping wing and a small apartment. The Schloss has two large fountains and its own sewage-disposal installation. The individual rooms in the Schloss are beautifully appointed. All the furnishings comprise interesting antiques. The purchase price is (US\$) 8,500,000; immediate occupancy possible.

AUSTRIA - Burgenland - EU Objective 1 - Industrial Site

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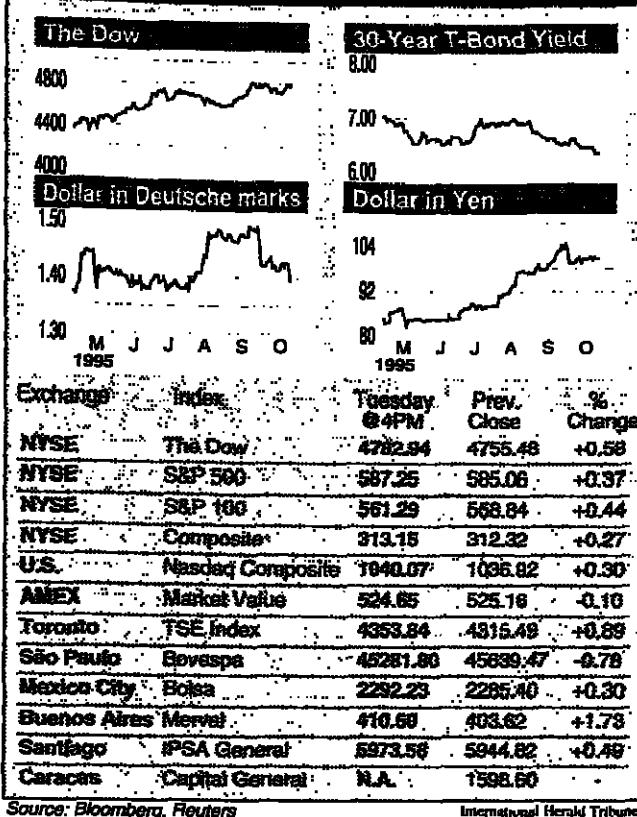
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THE AMERICAS

Investor's America



Very briefly:

Digital Restructuring Pays Off

MAYNARD, Massachusetts (AP)—Digital Equipment Corp. said Tuesday it returned to profit in its first financial quarter.

Digital earned \$48 million, or 26 cents a share, for the quarter ending Sept. 30, compared with a loss of \$131 million, or 98 cents a share, a year earlier. Revenue rose 5 percent, to \$3.27 billion.

The turnaround was due in part to a financial restructuring that resulted in a 12 percent drop in operating expenses since the first quarter last year, the company said. The result was the fourth straight profitable quarter for the computer maker.

• Melville Corp. said Tuesday that its board approved a restructuring plan that would create three independent, publicly traded retailing companies. The three units that will be spun off are drugs, footwear and toys. The retailer is to take a fourth-quarter charge of \$585 million.

• Quaker Oats Co. president Philip A. Marneau, who oversaw the ill-fated acquisition of Snapple Beverage Corp., resigned on Tuesday, just one week before the deal's first anniversary. Snapple sales have fallen far short of expectations.

• Chevron Corp. said its third-quarter profit from operations rose 24 percent, to \$504 million, on increased earnings from chemicals, and international exploration and production operations. Revenue fell 2.1 percent, to \$9.31 billion.

• Monsanto Co. said Tuesday its third-quarter operating earnings rose 46 percent, to \$41 million, fueled by higher global sales of its Roundup herbicide. Revenue rose 11 percent, to \$472 million.

Bloomberg, Reuters

Justice Dept. Unhappy With NASD

By Floyd Norris
New York Times Service

NEW YORK—The Justice Department has accused the National Association of Securities Dealers, the parent organization of the Nasdaq stock market, of dragging its feet in providing information for the department's antitrust investigation of dealers in the Nasdaq market.

The Justice Department also said that the association had tried to keep information out of the hands of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In a motion filed in U.S. District Court in New York on Monday, the department asked for an order requiring the stock dealers' association to comply with its request for information. It said the association's lawyers, after initially promising compliance, had recently ignored letters seeking information.

"The NASD not only has failed to comply," with the request for information, the Justice Department said in a memorandum to the court, "the NASD also has refused to commit to a date certain for full compliance."

It said the association had failed to provide documents it had given to the SEC, and had refused to allow the Justice Department to share with the SEC information that it had been given.

A spokesman for stock dealers group, Marc Beauchamp, said it was surprised by the Justice Department's action. "Both informally and formally we have cooperated with the Department of Justice," he said. "We've produced over half a million documents, and we have met with the department to answer any of its concerns and questions. We look forward to continuing

to work with the Department of Justice in satisfying its request for documents."

F. Joseph Warin, a partner with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, the law firm representing the association, called the court action "unjustified and unnecessary."

The Justice Department's filing showed increasing tension between the department and the securities dealers group, a self-regulatory organization that includes virtually all firms that sell stocks and bonds in the United States and that supervises the Nasdaq stock market.

That market uses dealers, known as market makers, to fill public orders to buy and sell stocks. The Justice Department has been investigating whether those dealers have colluded to keep the prices that public investors pay to buy stocks at inflated levels relative to the prices those investors can get when they sell the same stocks. That difference is known as the spread between the bid and asked price.

An academic study last year suggested that Nasdaq market makers had somehow colluded to fatten their profit. The Nasdaq dealers deny the assertions and say they result from a flawed understanding of the market.

In what may be the most surprising part of the Justice Department's filing, the department said that in June, in an effort to "speed up the process" and "minimize the burden on the NASD of simultaneous government inquiries," the department had asked for permission to share with the SEC the information the association had provided.

But the Justice Department said the association refused to allow that, even though it is supervised by the commission, which has also been investigating the Nasdaq market. Mr. Warin, the association's lawyer,

disputed that assertion. He said that after some initial discussion, the group had raised no objections to sharing information.

Since the SEC knows a lot more about how markets operate than do Justice Department lawyers, preventing cooperation between the two agencies could significantly hamper the investigation.

The Justice Department said that the securities dealers group had withheld many documents on the basis of potential claims that the information was privileged, without any explanation of what that might mean.

It said it had repeatedly tried to get the association to come up with a deadline for submitting all the information, that had been sought on Jan. 20, but that the association had refused to do so. It said that when the Justice Department set deadlines, the association ignored them.

State Regulators Want a Say

Faced with a congressional bill that would drastically cut their powers, state securities regulators have moved to seize the initiative by appointing an independent task force to recommend changes in the way states police the securities industry, the Los Angeles Times reported from New York.

In a related development, the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Arthur Levitt, in a speech Monday to the state regulators, said there was room for changes in state regulation. He spelled out six areas where he thought state regulation could be changed or left entirely to the federal government.

"The truth is that the current system of securities regulation is not the system you and I and the Congress would create if we were starting from scratch," Mr. Levitt said.

Tietmeyer's Remarks Bolster Dollar

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK—The dollar rose against most major currencies Tuesday after Hans Tietmeyer, the president of the Bundesbank, said the German central bank was ready to take part in international efforts to stabilize currency markets.

Mr. Tietmeyer said the Bundesbank was "ready for meaningful international cooperation in the future. Benign neglect was never our policy."

The mark has surged recently as political turmoil in Italy and France spurred a flight to the security of the German currency.

Mr. Tietmeyer's comments revived speculation that the world's leading central

banks might launch a coordinated effort to drive the Deutsche mark down.

The dollar rose to 1.3945 DM from 1.3880 DM, and to 100.500 yen from 99.945.

"It looked as if we were giving actual approval to foreign-exchange intervention," said Peggy Reed, a currency vice president at Credit Agricole.

But as traders reviewed what Mr. Tietmeyer said to a group of local German bankers, many concluded he was reiterating an earlier position. That limited the dollar's gains, analysts said.

Against other currencies, the dollar rose to 1.3660 Swiss francs from 1.3285, but

slipped to 4.8885 French francs from 4.8895. The pound edged lower, to \$1.5790 from \$1.5792.

In other trading, the Canadian dollar rose against the U.S. currency as Canadian bonds and stocks rebounded. Investors apparently decided the recent sell-off of Canadian assets was overdone, traders said.

The U.S. dollar slipped to 1.3675 Canadian dollars, from 1.3727 on Monday.

Investors had dumped Canadian assets over the past few days amid concern that Quebec residents will vote Monday to split from Canada. Recent polls have shown Quebec separatists leading. (Bloomberg, AP)

Stocks Rebound, But Unsteadily

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK—U.S. stocks

were mixed on Tuesday, as confidence from strong corporate earnings reports and higher bond prices was tempered by concern over the market's slump on Monday.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 28.18 points higher, at 4,783.65. But declining issues slightly led advancing ones on the New York Stock Exchange.

A confluence of factors, including calm overseas markets,

U.S. Stocks

stronger government bond prices, a steady U.S. dollar and strong corporate earnings reports set a mostly positive tone on Wall Street, analysts said.

Stocks had retreated on Monday in a broad sell-off triggered by weakness in U.S. bond and currency and overseas markets.

"Things are more benign today, giving the market a chance to come back," said Alfred Goldman, director of technical market analysis at A.G. Edwards & Sons in St. Louis.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond was quoted at 107 1/2, up 1/2, nudging the yield down to 6.32 percent from 6.39 percent at the Monday close. Analysts said the bond's strengthening after a Federal Reserve Board official suggested the central bank might reduce interest rates.

Transportation stocks were up, boosted by higher earnings reports at Burlington Northern, which surged 5 7/8 to 82 3/4.

Interest-rate sensitive stocks, such as banks and insurance companies, were lower. Citicorp fell 1 1/4 to 66 1/4, as did the insurer American General, which slipped 3 5/8 to 33 3/8.

The company said third-quarter earnings fell partly because of higher losses in its consumer lending businesses.

A new issue, Gucci surged 4 3/4 to 26 3/4, while another intimate Brands, parent com-

pany of the lingerie retailer Victoria's Secret, topped the list of mostly actively traded NYSE stocks and surged 5/8 to 17 5/8.

In the banking sector, while BankAmerica and NationsBank had discussed a possible merger earlier this year, the talks ended without any action, said one of the institutions confirmed Tuesday. The merger would have put a U.S. institution in the world's top 10 banks for the first time in many years.

Internet-related stocks rose after announcements Monday by MCI Communications and Intel gave increased viability to the Internet. Shares of Netscape Communications led the surge in Internet stocks, surging 3/4 to 79 3/4, a record high. The company also said it earned cents a share in the third quarter, compared with a pro-forma 3-cent loss a year earlier. The profit was its first. Revenue surged 75 percent, to \$20.8 million.

Access Health said it was notified that the United Auto Workers and General Motors Corp. would provide Access Health's health management program to all UAW-GM employees, retirees and dependents, sending its shares soaring 1 3/4 to 29 1/4.

Activision Inc., the entertainment software publisher, reported second-quarter earnings of 18 cents a share, compared with 5 cents a share a year ago, better than the average estimate of 12 cents a share from four analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research, and its shares climbed 1 9/16 to 17 9/16.

The brokerage Charles Schwab was added to the "priority list" by Goldman Sachs and its shares rose 27/32 to 24 11/32.

Cryolife, the biotechnology company, said third-quarter net income rose to 14 cents a share from 7 cents a year ago, beating average estimates of 12 cents. Its shares rose 1 to 17.

(AP, Bloomberg)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

| Tuesday, Oct. 24 | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low Close Prev. | | | | | High Low 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The Associated Press.

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Speculation can seriously damage a private economy.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

U.S. Automakers Plan Big Push In Japan Market

Compiled by the Staff from Dispatchers

TOKYO — American automakers, visiting Japan for the Tokyo Motor Show, announced plans Tuesday to aggressively move into the Japanese market.

General Motors Corp. expects its sales to soar to 100,000 vehicles a year by 2000, including sales of Opel and SAAB cars, Richard Wagoner, executive vice president, said.

The company, which sold only 42,500 units in Japan in the nine months to September, will rely on the local distributor Yanase Co., but is "actively looking for additional dealer candidates," Mr. Wagoner said. Chrysler Corp. unveiled its latest model, a Jeep Wrangler, in its push to bring right-hand-drive cars into the Japanese market.

Chrysler will introduce four right-hand-drive models into Japan next year, giving the automaker a total of five — more than either General Motors or Ford Motor Co.

GM said it planned to strengthen its presence in the Japanese market by launching its Opel and Saturn models while boosting its share of the Asian truck market through its Japanese affiliate Isuzu Motor Co.

John Smith, the GM president, said that Japan was beginning to open its doors to western countries, but that GM's entry into the South Korean market would be delayed until it decides to "follow Japan's example."

Chrysler, which plans to sell 18,000 vehicles in Japan this year, also plans a 1996 introduction of its right-hand-drive Jeep Grand Cherokee, Neon subcompact car and Voyager minivan.

Robert Eaton, the Chrysler chairman, said he wants to dispel the notion that "American companies, and Chrysler in particular, are not making big enough efforts to meet the needs of Japanese consumers."

Japanese trade officials have criticized U.S. automakers for building cars they say are too big for the Japanese market and have the steering wheel on "the wrong side." Chrysler, Ford and GM blamed their 1.5 percent market share on hidden trade barriers.

Chrysler has spent \$180 million engineering right-hand-drive cars and trucks, the company said. The automaker also spent \$100 million in August to buy a controlling interest in its Japanese distributor, Seibu Motor Sales Ltd.

On Wednesday, Ford is expected to unveil its new, right-hand-drive Taurus passenger car and Explorer sports utility vehicle.

GM plans to sell a right-hand-drive Saturn in Japan next year, as well as a right-hand-drive Cavalier, which will be sold by Toyota under a Toyota nameplate. (AFP, Bloomberg)

Nissan Suffers Loss

Nissan Motor Co. said that it would suffer a fourth consecutive loss on its worldwide operations this year. Bloomberg Business News reported from Tokyo on Tuesday. But the carmaker aims to return to profit in the year ending March 1997, said its managing director, Koichi Takagi.

Mr. Takagi did not offer a specific forecast for Nissan's global earnings. Last fiscal year, Japan's No. 2 carmaker reported a consolidated net loss of 166 billion yen (\$1.7 billion). Nissan's cumulative loss over the past three years was 308.9 billion yen.

Separately, Japan's vehicle production fell 10.9 percent in September from the same month the previous year to 859,972 units, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said.

In September, car production fell 9.1 percent, to 639,167 vehicles. Truck production fell 15.6 percent, to 216,848 vehicles, and bus production fell 12.3 percent, to 3,957.

Investing Far and Wide Japanese Trawl Foreign Bond Markets

Bloomberg Business News

TOKYO — It has been five years since Japan roused from its dream of ever-rising asset prices. A lucky few, however, have been able to slumber on to the tune of bubble-era lullabies.

They get their wake-up call on Friday when about 4.7 trillion yen (\$50 billion) in special five-year, zero-coupon bank debentures will mature, according to Merrill Lynch & Co. estimates. Sold as so-called Wide accounts to investors in 1990, they pay up to 8.5 percent.

If you buy a five-year bond today, it will pay just 1.88 percent. Japan's economic growth rate is a far cry from what it was at the beginning of the decade, and people just do not pay as much for money as they used to. With returns so low in Japan, the Wide-account investors are scouring the planet for bonds that can give them yields they are used to.

"It's not worth the effort taking your money to a bank," says Osamu Semba, general manager of debt syndications at Daiwa Securities Co. "In a year, you'll have earned just enough interest to buy yourself lunch."

Wide accounts were the rage five years ago. "When you saw huge throngs of people lined up in Tokyo, you could almost be certain they were waiting their chance to buy five-year bank debentures," says Mr. Semba.

The accounts worked like this: depositors would buy a five-year bond from a Japanese bank, which would pay them the principal and interest on the maturity day. That meant investors did not have to worry about how to reinvest the interest income. The banks did the worrying for them and promised to pay them the bond's coupon rate for the privilege.

The problem with the Wide concept, as depositors are finding out, is that they have to find a good place to reinvest their funds.

Nomura Securities, Japan's largest securities company, has two answers. It is advertising seven-year Australian government debt at a yield of 8.092 percent, and five-year German government bonds that pay 5.54 percent. Other

brokerage houses have similar strategies.

"Hey, Wide investors," reads one flyer distributed by Wako Securities Co. "Pass the baton to foreign bonds."

The ads are working so far. Nomura Securities Co. doubled its monthly sales of foreign bonds in July and kept it up in August, according to Kazutoshi Inano, the firm's marketing manager.

Mr. Inano would not specify how much foreign paper investors bought, but he said Nomura expected foreign bonds to continue selling well. "Yields in Japan are just too low," says Mr. Inano. "Many investors look at foreign bonds and they can't pass them up."

The switch overseas has paid off. Australian government bonds with maturities of seven to 10 years have given investors a total return in yen of 23.78 percent in the past three months. German government bonds with five-to-seven-year maturities have paid 18.75 percent.

That sounds good to people like Minoru Watanabe, a retiree checking out a wall covered in stock prices at a Wako Securities office. "Looking from Japan, returns on foreign bonds certainly look attractive," he said. "But I'm a little concerned about currency and country risk."

Inflation in the issuing country or a fall in its currency could wipe out the interest-income in yen terms or even cause losses. But low yields at home and rising exposure to the world outside make those risks look more liveable.

Mr. Semba of Daiwa said: "Because of the increase in travel abroad, a greater number of Japanese now have their own horse sense about foreign exchange rates and the relative worth of foreign currency investments. Most customers that buy foreign currency bonds from us are very astute about knowing when to sell."

Not all the Wide-account investors are high rollers, though. Mr. Semba said what money is not going into foreign bonds is heading for the safety of postal savings accounts. They pay 1.6 percent. Tops.

China to Curtail Special Zones

Agence France-Presse

BEIJING — All but one of the preferential policies for foreign investors in China's special economic zones will expire at the end of the year, a senior government official was quoted as saying on Tuesday.

The move means that investors will lose tariff exemptions on money and goods they take to the zones as invest-

ments, said Liu Xiaohua, an official with the State Council's Special Economic Zone Office.

"Only one preferential policy will remain unchanged," Mr. Liu told the weekly Outlook magazine. Enterprises in the zones will continue to pay 15 percent income tax instead of the national rate of 33 percent.

The fate of preferential policies has been shrouded in con-

fusion, with officials issuing contradictory statements on the extent and timing of changes.

Western observers said the confusion reflected government concern that announcement of a drastic policy change would scare investors away from the zones. Mr. Liu had himself denied the imminent cancellation of the policies on Monday.

Playboy Produces For Wharf

Bloomberg Business News

HONG KONG — Playboy Enterprises Inc. and Wharf Cable plan to start co-producing adult television shows with Asian actors because their existing pay-per-view TV shows are so popular in Hong Kong, the companies said Tuesday.

"Asia is for us one of the most important areas of the globe," said Christie Hefner, Playboy's chief executive. "We believe it has the most growth to come over the next five years."

Wharf's chairman, Stephen Ng, said, "We are definitely looking at ways and a timetable to introduce a full Playboy channel to Hong Kong at the earliest opportunity."

Playboy's shows, which began airing March 1, are Wharf's most popular. The unprofitable cable channel draws 50 percent more viewers for the Playboy shows it airs Wednesday between 8 P.M. and 5 A.M. than during the same time period on other days.

On Oct. 1, Wharf Cable doubled the number of hours it airs the adult programs, adding shows on Sunday nights. Viewers pay 25 Hong Kong dollars (\$3.25) per program.

The programs are produced in the United States by Playboy alone. Wharf Cable plans to co-produce with Playboy in producing adult films, talk-show segments and other programs specifically for Hong Kong on a timetable yet to be announced.

Playboy's audience in Hong Kong is demographically similar to its audience in the United States, where about 80 percent of viewers watch in couples, Ms. Hefner said.

Ms. Hefner said the main purpose of her visit to Hong Kong was to search for a publisher to put out a new Hong Kong edition of Playboy magazine.

An earlier local Chinese version of the magazine ceased publication in 1993 because the publisher ran out of money owing to "political and censorship problems" with a separate Taiwanese edition, Ms. Hefner said.

| Investor's Asia | | | | |
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| 8500 | 2100 | 18000 | | |
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| Exchange | Index | Tuesday Close | Prev. Close | % Change |
| Hong Kong | Hang Seng | 9,775.66 | 9,880.53 | -1.06 |
| Singapore | Straits Times | 2,089.44 | 2,107.92 | -0.88 |
| Sydney | All Ordinaries | 2,080.00 | 2,089.30 | -0.45 |
| Tokyo | Nikkei 225 | 18,014.25 | 18,158.24 | -0.78 |
| Kuala Lumpur | Composite | 948.41 | 959.23 | -1.13 |
| Bangkok | SET | 1,276.08 | 1,282.51 | -0.50 |
| Seoul | Composite Index | 992.76 | 976.39 | +1.68 |
| Taipei | Stock Market Index | 4,995.79 | 4,975.44 | +0.41 |
| Manila | PSE | 2,572.49 | 2,585.17 | -0.49 |
| Jakarta | Composite Index | 498.02 | 498.96 | -0.19 |
| Wellington | NZSE-40 | 2,187.85 | 2,206.02 | -0.82 |
| Bombay | Sensitive Index | Closed | 3,511.57 | - |

Source: Reuters

International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. said its pretax profit for the half year ended Sept. 30 rose 10 percent over the like period last year, to 41.22 billion yen (\$412.2 million). Sales were 2.162 trillion yen, 2 percent less than last year.
- Hino Motors Ltd., the Japanese truck maker owned by Toyota Motor Corp., said its pretax profit hit a four-year high in the first half, rising 153 percent, to 7.08 billion yen.
- Acer Inc. of Taiwan, one of the world's largest manufacturers of personal computers, has raised \$220.8 million in an overseas stock sale, said its underwriter, Nomura International PLC.
- Mercedes-Benz AG, in a bid to widen its slice of the luxury-car market, said it would invest \$100 million to develop a network of sales and service centers in China by the end of 1996.
- Cotes Myer Ltd., following the ouster of its chairman, Solomon Lew, and two of his allies, said its board had discussed changes in its composition but did not disclose the names of candidates for chairman and directors.
- Singapore Airlines Ltd. said its net profit rose 14 percent, to \$522.7 million Singapore dollars (\$370.7 million), in its first half, as the strong Singapore dollar's purchasing power outweighed its negative effect on revenue translation.
- Softbank Corp. said it would spend \$30 million to buy a 30 percent stake in Unitech Telecom Inc., a California-based company with a telecommunications business in China.
- JG Summit Holdings Inc., the Manila-based investment holding company, said it would sell to Japan's Marubeni Corp. a 20 percent stake in its JG Summit Petrochemical Corp. unit. It did not disclose the price.
- Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. stock fell 3 percent Tuesday amid concern that a new China-sponsored competitor, China National Aviation Corp., could win a Hong Kong operating license next year.

Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP, AP

TV: Targeting Generation Xers

Continued from Page 19

of the camera. "We show the lights, the cables all over the floor, demystifying the whole process of making TV," said Gary Carter, a company spokesman.

Within the group of teen-aged and young-adult is the nebulous Generation X, the segment of the population in their 20s that resist classification — and market exploitation.

"The one thing Generation Xers hate is to be pandered to as the young crowd," said Alex Berger, a partner in Rapido TV, a joint venture with the entrepreneur Richard Branson, and currently a deputy director of the pay-TV network Canal Plus. Rapido TV is the producer of "Eurotrash," a tongue-in-cheek take on trends and trends-setters hosted by fashion designer Jean-Paul Gaultier. "The key to appealing to Generation X is to create an environment that is not fake and to orbit the subject without falling for it," Mr. Berger said.

In France, M6 is the third-most-watched channel after TF1 and the public broadcaster France 2. It has garnered nearly 12 percent market share with its mix of American films and TV series; rock, jazz and pop music shows; and erotic program-

ming. Half the viewers are under 35, according to Thomas Valentin, president of the Paris-based channel. M6 has been aggressively exporting its series to foreign audiences, with "Model Academy," an unabashedly frivolous confection about aspiring fashion models, reaching about 40 territories from Latin America to Korea.

A third of M6's programming is devoted to music, including a hard rock show on Sunday evenings and a dance program exported to Sweden, Denmark and Britain.

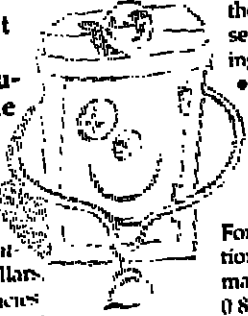
In Germany, Pro Sieben ranks No. 2 among young-adult audiences, behind overall leader RTL, and posted revenue of 1.1 billion Deutsche marks (\$792 million) in 1994, according to program director Jan Koerbelin. The station, owned by the media magnate Leo Kirch, is "a cross between HBO and Fox," Mr. Koerbelin said of its mix of American films and TV series, talk shows and current-affairs program.

In a departure for a German broadcaster, Pro Sieben has ventured into situation comedy. "The Fiersteins," a series based on a none-too-bright family, sends up Teutonic self-seriousness and is faster-paced than what German audiences are accustomed to.

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Citibank N.A., Milano has been appointed Investment Advisor for the Italian Equity Citiportfolio with effect on September 30th, 1995.

Citiportfolios S.A.

CITIMARKETS

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Citimarkets S.A., acting as the Management Company of Citimarkets (the "Fund"), and with the approval of Citibank (Luxembourg) S.A. as Custodian, has decided to change the financial year and date of the Fund from December 31st to March 31st.

The next audited report available will be based on the financial figures as at March 31st, 1996.

Citimarkets S.A.

Thursday

HEALTH/SCIENCE

With a wide range of topics from technology to space exploration, from recent medical discoveries to how the human brain functions, this in-depth feature brings up-to-date information on scientific and physical developments in the intriguing worlds of health and science.

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At an Offer Price of
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July 1995

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The 1,000 most-traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

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Tuesday's 4 p.m. Close
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October 24, 1995

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| PROTON GROUP OF FUNDS | | | |
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SPORTS

Pressure Is On for Wilkins, a New Greek God

International Herald Tribune
LONDON — The National Basketball Association, in North America, started training this month with 31 foreign players — more than one per club. Even if some won't make the final rosters, it is a startling number. Because most top European clubs are limited to two foreign players, the balance of trade between the continents is starting to level out.

The exchange is gratifying to European basketball but damaging in the short term. Maybe one day the European game will improve as more players grow up aiming at a career in North America. In the meantime, however, the NBA has harvested the best that Europe has ever created — Toni Kukoc, Dino Radja, the late Drazen Petrovic, Arvids Sabonis — while Europe has had to make do with lesser, former U.S. stars.

The best example, as the 16-team European championship starts this week, is Panathinaikos of Greece, a European semifinalist the last two years. Its new coach is Bozidar Maljkovic, the brilliant Serb who won European titles at Split (with Kukoc) and at Limoges. Lured from France last spring for \$3 million over two years, he operates much like the successful coaches at the smaller American colleges — emphasizing defense and slow, certain offense. But Panathinaikos' big star was signed without Maljkovic's counsel: 35-year-old Dominique Wilkins, at \$7 million for two

years, reportedly a European record. Wilkins was greeted by 5,000 fans at the airport. "Bring me the European trophy and I'll match your weight in gold," Pavlos Yannakopoulos, the pharmaceuticals tycoon and club president, told Wilkins at his public introduction last month.

The former "Human Highlight Film" — as Wilkins was known in his springer days — must be wary of what his weight will be worth if he doesn't win in Europe. He was happy to leave the Boston Celtics because he did not feel appreciated there. But he has never experienced the criticism nor the boogie nor the occasional physical threat borne by rich players who don't produce results in Greece, the only European nation to take basketball seriously as other countries take their soccer.

Alongside him are center Stojko Vrankovic, who failed to make it to the Celtics a few years ago, and the famed Greek backcourt of Panagiotis Giannakis (36 years old) and Nick Galis (38), the latter having missed most of last season in a falling out with the club president.

Perhaps the first Greek club to win the European championship will be an underdog with less obvious talent, more character and altogether less pressure. The experience of Olympiakosof Piraeus shows the fragility of a team built by buying expensive names.

Olympiakos beat Panathinaikos to reach the last two European finals, only to lose to less-talented Spanish clubs (although last season's champion, Real Madrid, did have Sabonis). The top

Greek clubs are the richest in Europe, but the fans are so hungry and so threatening that their players must overcome pressures unlike anything in the NBA.

In Atlanta, Wilkins was criticized for not carrying the Hawks as Larry Bird carried the Celtics, Magic Johnson the Los Angeles Lakers or Michael Jordan the Chicago Bulls; he was criticized for worrying more about his own statistics than the team's success. But the Hawks never landed a profound inside player to complement him. Only one player has scored more points than Wilkins without winning an NBA championship.

Now Wilkins has to prove himself a long way from home, with a coach who believes in a more structured game than Wilkins has ever been forced to play. Wilkins started slowly before scoring 31 points against AEK two weeks ago.

"I miss fast basketball, but he (Maljkovic) is the boss. I'm just a Panathinaikos employee," Wilkins said. "This year the Final Four is in Paris, the city I was born in."

The competition is divided into two groups of eight. Panathinaikos is in Group B with defending champion Real Madrid, Buckler Bologna, Maccabi Tel Aviv, Cibona Zagreb and FC Barcelona. Only four teams will advance to the quarterfinals in March. The Final Four is in Paris on April 9 to 11.

If Bologna can recreate its form of last weekend in the McDonald's, it should be a lock for the finals. Its indispensable star is former NBA player Orlando Woolridge, who turns 36 in December. If Bologna stops running it will be in

trouble, because the complementary guard Arjan Komazec — the top NBA prospect in Europe — thrives on the motion game whipped up by Woolridge. Without it, Komazec will have trouble creating his own shot off the dribble.

Real Madrid could add to its record nine European championships despite replacing half of its team after losing Sabonis to the Portland Trail Blazers last summer. Zeljko Obradovic is master of the quick fix. In his four-year coaching career he has won three European championships, all with different clubs.

"It's hard to say how good he is, because he's so far superior to anybody I've ever had," the American forward Joe Arjauskas said. "He has such a great relationship with the players, that's the most important thing. He doesn't drill you with basketball off of the court. On the court he does, that's for sure, but once you're outside he doesn't say anything about basketball. I get confident because we've jelled so quickly already."

The other eight-team group should provide an easier route for Olympiakos, along with fellow contenders Benetton Treviso of Italy and CSKA Moscow. Olympiakos' key men are a couple of former NBA players, Walter Berry and David Rivers, plus Panagiotis Fassoulas, the Greek national center.

Olympiakos will renew its unhappy rivalry with CSKA Moscow, which claimed its players were poisoned before the decisive quarterfinal game in Greece last year. The incident left CSKA with just five players in a game that never should have been played.

Patriots Find an Offense

The Associated Press

FOXBORO — The Buffalo Bills were missing coach Marv Levy and receiver Andre Reed. They lost running back Thurman Thomas after six minutes. Meanwhile, the New England Patriots found an offense.

The Patriots pulled out of their five-game tailspin and surprised the first-place Buffalo Bills 27-14 in the first Monday night game at Foxboro in 14 years.

The Bills remained in first place in the AFC East. The Patriots were the NFL's lowest scoring team but renewed their playoff hopes against the NFL's top-rated defense.

"There was a little more emotion, a little more attitude," quarterback Drew Bledsoe said. Rookie running back Curtis Martin rushed 36 times for a career-high 127 yards and one touchdown as the Patriots took a 21-6 lead in the second quarter.

Bledsoe, who completed 23 of 40 passes for 262 yards and a touchdown, said: "When you control the line of scrimmage in this league, you're going to win the ball game."



Moreandotti of Buckler Bologna shooting over Brown of Houston in the final of the McDonald's tournament.

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

NFL Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Best

W L T Pct. PF PA

Buffalo

Indianapolis

Miami

New England

N.Y. Jets

Central

Cincinnati

Cleveland

Pittsburgh

Jacksonville

Houston

West

Kansas City

Oakland

Denver

San Diego

Seattle

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Best

W L T Pct. PF PA

Dallas

Philadelphia

Washington

Arizona

N.Y. Giants

Chicago

Green Bay

Tampa Bay

Minnesota

Detroit

West

Atlanta

St. Louis

San Francisco

Carolina

New Orleans

Monday Results

New England 27, Buffalo 14

HOCKEY

NHL Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Best

W L T Pct. GF GA

New Jersey

Philadelphia

Florida

N.Y. Rangers

Washington

Tampa Bay

N.Y. Islanders

Northwest Division

Best

W L T Pct. GF GA

Hartford

JANUARY 1

JANUARY 2

JANUARY 3

JANUARY 4

JANUARY 5

JANUARY 6

BASEBALL

JAPAN SERIES

Best of 7

Game 3

Yokohama 7, Orix Bluewave 4

Yokohama leads series 3-0

TRANSITIONS

BASEBALL

American League

New York Yankees

Manager: Joe Torre

Montreal Expos

Manager: Denis Laroche

New York Mets

Manager: Lonn Losen

Philadelphia Phillies

Manager: John Monteleone

St. Louis Cardinals

Manager: Tony La Russa

San Francisco Giants

Manager: Tim Lincecum

Los Angeles Dodgers

Manager: Tom Lasorda

Pittsburgh Pirates

Manager: Clint Hurdle

Cincinnati Reds

Manager: Tony La Russa

Milwaukee Brewers

Manager: Ken Williams

Chicago Cubs

Manager: Jim Lincecum

St. Louis Cardinals

Manager: Tony La Russa

San Francisco Giants

Manager: Tim Lincecum

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Manager: Tony La Russa

Milwaukee Brewers

Manager: Ken Williams

Chicago Cubs

Manager: Jim Lincecum

St. Louis Cardinals

Manager: Tony La Russa

San Francisco Giants

Manager: Tim Lincecum

Los Angeles Dodgers

Manager: Tom Lasorda

Pittsburgh Pirates

Manager: Clint Hurdle

COLORADO

Agreed to terms with Joe

Soto, center, on 2-year contract.

DALLAS

Assigned Bill Huard, forward, to

Michigan, IHL.

LOS ANGELES

Assigned Matt Johnson, left

wing, and Anto Blomsten, defenseman, to

Phoenix, IHL.

MONTREAL

Named Mario Tremblay

coach and Reuben Houle general manager.

N.Y. RANGERS

Reassigned Darren Langdon, forward, from

Binghamton, AHL.

OTTAWA

Reassigned Mike Bales, goaltender, from

P.E.I., AHL, and Rob Gaudreau, right

wing, from Prince Edward Island, AHL. As-

signed Lance Leslie, goaltender, to Toledo,

ECHL, and Cosmo Durrant, center, to Thunder

Bay, CHL. Leonard Dornier, defenseman, to

P.E.I.

ST. LOUIS

Signed Peter Zent, center. Sent

Craig Johnson, forward, to Worcester, AHL.

WASHINGTON

Signed Peter Boudry, center, to

5-year contract.

YALE

Named Joe Bally men's assistant

basketball coach and Bruce Wilkins men's

assistant ice hockey coach.

COLLEGE

YALE

Named Joe Bally men's assistant

basketball coach and Bruce Wilkins men's

assistant ice hockey coach.

YALE

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SIDELINES

Mariners to Get Stadium

SEATTLE (AP) — Metropolitan King County Council approved a plan to build a \$320 million retractable-roof stadium in Seattle.

The council voted 10-3 for the plan, and a dissenting group filed a lawsuit to block it. Mariners owners had set an Oct. 30 deadline for agreement on a stadium plan.

Under it, the Mariners are to provide \$45 million and a state sales-tax credit about \$59 million. A scratch-off state lottery game would net \$48 million over 20 years.

The rest of the money would come from county-wide taxes that required council approval — \$9 million a year from a sales-tax surcharge of 0.5 percent on restaurant and bar tabs, \$3.5 million from a 2 percent raise in the car rental tax and a 5 percent admissions tax at the new park.

John Ellis, Mariners chairman and chief executive, said a ballpark might be completed in time for the season opener in 1999. The Mariners say they have lost at least \$67 million in the past 3½ years, in part because they lack revenue-generating skyboxes and luxury seats and because the Kingdome lacks the appeal of an open-air ballpark with natural grass.

Faldo Splits From Wife
LONDON — Nick Faldo confirmed he was separating from his wife, Gill.

The split was announced by Faldo's agent, John Simpson of the International Management Group. Reports in Britain said Faldo had offered his wife a \$11.8 million settlement and that Faldo wanted to make a clean break and start a new life in the United States with a 20-year-old college student, Brenda Cepelak, who is on a golf scholarship at the University of Arizona.

Cardinals Hire La Russa
Tony La Russa, who led the Oakland Athletics to a championship and three AL pennants in 10 years, signed a two-year contract Monday worth

an estimated \$1.5 million per season to manage the St. Louis Cardinals.

The Cardinals finished fourth in the NL Central at 62-81 under Joe Torre and Mike Jorgensen. La Russa's Athletics finished last in the AL West at 67-77.

Nebraska Star to Stay On
LINCOLN — Nebraska running back Lawrence Phillips can stay in school although he is being disciplined for attacking his former girlfriend, university vice chancellor James Green said. The decision could lead to Phillips' return to the defending national champion Cornhuskers.

Tackles Test Positive
PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh nose tackle Jon Stuedt drew a four-game suspension after becoming the first NFL player this season to test positive for steroids.

In Philadelphia, tackle Bernard Williams, suspended for the first six games for testing positive for marijuana, will miss the rest of the season for a second violation of the NFL's drug policy, a team source said.

A No-Fat Contract
LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles Clippers center Stanley Roberts will be suspended without pay when the season opens Nov. 3 unless he meets a weight clause in his contract, coach Bill Fitch said. Roberts is being held out of practice and exhibition games until he loses weight. He hasn't played a regular-season game in nearly two years because of Achilles tendon injuries.

"His contract specifies what his condition has to be and, if he doesn't meet that, he'll open on the suspended list," Fitch said.

Listed in the Clippers media guide at 290 pounds, Roberts appears to weigh more than 300. The club would not reveal his weight or how much his contract guideline. "He's light years away," Fitch said.

DENNIS THE MENACE



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumble words. One letter in each square is the same letter in the words.

PRIVE

SYGAG

CLINEY

LABEZA

Print answer here: _____

Answers: JUMBLE, MENACE, DENNIS, MENACE

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PEANUTS



Shotgun Sawn Off, Belle Is Firing Blanks Cleveland Waits for Slump to End

By Claire Smith
New York Times Service

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Indians' offense fell to pieces at about the time Albert Belle's favorite bat did: seized and sawed in half in the first round of the American League playoffs.

Even though the Indians advanced two rounds to the World Series after that post-season opener against the Boston Red Sox, it is obvious that something other than Belle's bat has been extracted from the Indians' arsenal.

Now, the disappearance of the game's most productive offense — and the lack of contributions from Belle, the game's most dangerous hitter this season — has put the Indians in a danger zone: only 10 of the 42 teams that lost the first two games of the World Series have come back to become world champions.

The Indians, who will send Charles Nagy to the mound here in Game 3 Tuesday night against John Smoltz of the Braves, have to know that no team has ever come back from a 3-0 deficit in the World Series.

To avoid that hurdle, the Indians must rediscover the hitting that led them to 100 regular-season victories. Something like the hitting that has led Atlanta to its two victories and sent the National League team here "sky high," according to Atlanta third baseman Chipper Jones.

Kenny Lofton, the only Indians player with a discernible pulse in the first two games, believes they could do with the old Belle. Lofton believes that a missing ingredient — emotion — must be restored in the Indians' cleanup hitter, who hit 50 home runs this season and is usually at the epicenter of any eruption managed by Indians' hitters.

Belle's Series is anything but impressive. He has one lone single, and as many scowls of frustration as he has had missed opportunities.

"We talked about it a little bit; I want to get inside his head a little bit," Lofton said of Belle. "I wish he would break his bat or

something," Omar Vizquel, the Indians' shortstop, agreed, saying: "He has been really calm lately. If he starts breaking bats he'll probably start hitting again."

Belle's production on the field usually coincides with his eruptions off it. While Belle was hitting 31 home runs after Aug. 1, "he was still throwing everything around," Vizquel said, laughing. "This guy can go three for three, go into the last at-bat and pop out and he's still throwing cookies around."

"Sometimes he throws the water cooler, sometimes he breaks the telephone or the trophies they have around. Sometimes there's cookies all over the place."

Belle's slump is epic, but no more so than that of the entire team, which posted a paltry five runs in two games, a .125 team average and eight hits, seven of them singles.

The offense that led the American League in hitting has been shut down partly because the deep, richly talented Braves pitching staff can trot out Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine, winners of the National League's last four Cy Young awards. Now the Braves will follow up their finesse with power in the form of Smoltz, second in strikeouts in the National League this season.

When the Series resumes at Jacobs Field Tuesday night, Cleveland will counter with Nagy, an unknown quantity to the Braves, but a 16-game winner this season.

"He'll be tough," Atlanta second baseman Mark Lemke cautioned. "It's always tougher when you've never faced that pitcher before."

Still, the burden of proof is very much on the Indians.

For they will go into Game 3 knowing that while they try to find their legs in what is for the bulk of them their first World Series, Smoltz will be trying to improve on a 3-1 record in postseason play.

It is doubtful Cleveland will go anywhere without its big hitters, namely Belle.

"Ever since they cut Albert's bat open he's been very frustrated," Lofton said,



Charles Nagy, due to start Tuesday for Cleveland, collecting balls at practice.

speaking for a player who does not speak to the news media.

Yet, it is not the right kind of frustration, Lofton believes. "Albert's always fo-

cused," he said. "Albert knows what he's got to do." Vizquel added: "I hope that he erupts pretty soon. Not only him, but some of the other guys, too."

A Golden Anniversary Baseball Can Celebrate

By Dave Anderson
New York Times Service

ATLANTA — Nobody even thinks about it anymore. When the World Series resumed on Sunday night with the Braves' 4-3 victory, black baseball players were as much a part of the scene as the red-white-and-blue bunting draped across the box-seat railings and the upper deck.

Think of it as Jackie Robinson's legacy. Until 50 years ago Monday, when Branch Rickey announced that the Brooklyn Dodgers had signed Robinson to a Montreal farm-team contract, the World Series had always been as white as the ball. One of organized baseball's club owners had finally shattered its racial barrier. Ever since, baseball has been so much the better for it.

Imagine how half-empty the World Series would have been over the last half-century without Robinson, Willie Mays, Henry Aaron, Larry Doby, Roy Campanella, Elston Howard, Frank Robinson, Roberto Clemente, Maury Wills, Bob Gibson, Joe Morgan, Reggie Jackson, Willie Stargell, Ozzie Smith, Kirby Puckett, Rickey Henderson, Joe Carter and so many others.

Imagine what this Series would be like without Fred McGriff and David Justice, without Kenny Lofton and Eddie Murray.

In different ways, McGriff and Lofton reflect what defined Jackie Robinson.

"He got a fastball up," McGriff said after his homer off Orel Hersher on Saturday.

"I was just trying to be aggressive."

Has any baseball player ever been more aggressive than Robinson was as the Dodgers' cleanup hitter?

"Creating runs is even more important in the postseason," said Lofton whose four stolen bases in the first two games led to three of the Indians' runs.

Has any player ever created more runs than Robinson did with his base running?

When Rickey signed him on Oct. 23, 1945, racism roared. At a National League owners meeting, the opinion was that "however well-intentioned, the use of Negro players would hazard all the physical properties of baseball." Judge William Braham, the president of the minor leagues, alluded to Rickey as "the carpetbagger stripe of the white race."

Robinson's talent was even questioned. The Sporting News, known then as the

Bible of Baseball, sneered: "Robinson is reported to possess baseball abilities which, if he were white, would make him eligible for a trial with, say, the Dodgers' Class B farm at Newport News — if he were 6 years younger."

He was 26, old for a rookie. He knew there were better players in the Negro Leagues then. Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson and Buck Leonard, to name three.

But Rickey wanted more than a ballplayer. He wanted "somebody who was strong enough not to fight back" at the taunts and insults. At least not in the first few years. After having scouted him under the guise of the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers team in a new Negro league, he had met with Robinson secretly that Aug. 28 in the Dodger offices.

"After that meeting, Jack called me all excited," his widow, Rachel, remembered. "He had been unhappy playing with the Kansas City Monarchs. He liked the players, but he didn't like the working conditions — the old hotels, the long bus trips. Now he knew he had a job. But he didn't know how he would perform under stress."

Not the stress of baseball. He knew he could play baseball, just as he had competed in football and track at UCLA, but he didn't know how he would react to the stress of being the only black man in the white man's game.

As it turned out, that stress made him better.

As the Dodgers' first baseman in 1947, he was the NL rookie of the year; as their second baseman in 1949, he was voted the most valuable player award.

Roy Campanella, Don Newcombe, Joe Black and Junior Gilliam soon joined the Dodgers and other clubs pounced on the black talent ignored for so long. In 1954, the Dodgers stopped in Mobile, for an exhibition with the Milwaukee Braves. A skinny, black Braves rookie was slashing line drives in batting practice. Robinson turned to a bystander. "You're going to be looking at that kid for a long time," he said.

That kid was Henry Aaron, who would hit 755 home runs, who would inspire a bronze statue honoring him outside Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium where his 715th homer broke Babe Ruth's record in 1974 and where the 1995 World Series opened with the presence of black players as natural as the outfield grass.

Hello Juninho! Good-bye Havelange? Rob Hughes Sees One Brazilian Arrive and Wonders if We Will Soon See Another Depart

The Young Master Conquers Cold Foreign City

International Herald Tribune

LONDON — He stood before a 6,000-strong welcoming committee, looking for all the world like Tom Thumb dressed up in soccer kit.

"I'm two inches bigger than Maradona," he lied. The medical record puts Juninho, who moves this week from São Paulo in Brazil to Middlesbrough in England's bleak northeast, at 1.64 metres — 5 feet 4½ inches.

At full stretch, he may be a shade taller than Diego Maradona. But Argentina's little maestro has the muscular hulk of a bull; Juninho is built like a 126 pound whippet. He relies on fleetness, courage and bold imagination to outwit the bodywreckers.

He doesn't expect the hard men of England to harm him any more than the beasts of Brazil have. He's 22, he "owns" the most coveted shirt

in Brazil's national team, Pele's No. 10, and as small as he stands he thinks tall: "I want to become the world's best player," he says. "That's why I'm making this move."

Flanked by his mother and father, and by his sister Gisele, who are giving up life in Brazil to build him a home from home in Middlesbrough, Juninho swears away the doubts as eagerly as he gambols around the pitch.

The cold? "I'll bring plenty of coats and gloves."

The onus of his fee — a record \$7.5 million for a Brazilian? "I'll try to repay it. I can't promise goals, and I can't promise success, but I can promise the fans I will always give 100 percent to Middlesbrough."

The pragmatism of English style, the high ball and high tempo? "Bryan Robson told me he wants me to play the same way I play for Brazil."

says Juninho. "I like Bryan first because he was the only coach who came to talk to me personally. The others sent directors or agents. And Robson was already a big name to me." (He had captained England for many of his 90 caps.)

So what about the cultural upheaval, the harsh environmental contrast? As the question was put, the rain and the high wind that is typical of this northern English outpost did their worst.

Oswaldo Giraldo Junior — for those are his christened names, Juninho (Little Boy) is the obvious nickname — jutted out his chin, drew his collar tighter around the neck, and simply smiled. It does sometimes rain in Latin America, he implied, and soccer is a fast game better played out of the heat.

The \$20,000 a week salary may insulate him somewhat from the biting northerly winds. The snow, when it comes, might

dent the sombreros and 100 other items of merchandise the club is marketing. But if there is a surprise to those who have bought in advance every seat in the house to see Juninho's effect on "the Boro," it is he new Celtic Riverside Stadium.

For 92 years, Middlesbrough played at a ground called Ayresome Park. It is a homely, now antiquated abode, surrounded by typical red-bricked, back to back English Victorian housing.

At Ayresome the noise rolled down in waves from the thousands who stood on steep concrete banks behind the goals. The richer folk in the grandstand could smell the embrocation wafting through the floorboards from the changing rooms.

On a good day, it could warm the coldest soul. And we were reminded just a week ago of a small, slight, wispy craftsman who, like Juninho, could create beauty out of barrenness.

Will Mannion, a hero of the past, was honored with a benefit dinner. Juninho will learn that he is stepping into legendary shoes, shoes as small as a child's. But he will never know Ayresome Park. For the club has moved upmarket and down the coastline, to a new steel stadium built in docklands.

It stands incongruously amid the cranes, the somber gray warehouses, the austere industrial harbor. A yellowy smog creeps over the stadium from nearby chimneys, some of them on the ICI chemical plant which, among others, revived the club from liquidation nine years ago.

Like the embrocation, the smells go with the territory. And if Juninho can transplant his flair into an industrious and already successful side, the capacity crowd of 30,000 will roar the young Brazilian to new heights.

He might even reach two inches taller than Maradona.

International Herald Tribune

João Havelange, the Brazilian who has ruled world soccer like a fiefdom for 21 years, is beginning to lose the power game.

Tuesday in Seoul, Chung Mong Joon, a relative newcomer to FIFA, the international governing body over which Havelange presides, criticized the secret, unaccountable, and uncompetitive deals by which, Chung claims, FIFA has underdressed World Cup TV and marketing rights.

Chung, a FIFA vice president, adds an Asian voice to recent UEFA (European) and CAF (African) challenges to FIFA rule. Havelange was not named in Chung's address at a symposium for South Korea's 2002 World Cup bid, but the tone mirrored the words of Lennart Johansson and Issa Hayatou, presidents of UEFA and CAF, written to Havelange in May.

"World Cup marketing and TV rights must be reviewed," Chung said. "More transparency is needed. Historically the process and decision-making has been handled by very few people behind closed doors."

He was speaking of "the committees who protect the interests of footballers, fans, sponsors, officials and other groups have had virtually no involvement whatsoever."

Unsaid is the complaint that contracts appeared to involve only Havelange; his senior vice president, the Mexican Guillermo Camacho; and general secretary, Sepp Blatter.

An octogenarian, Havelange has grown increasingly autocratic, removing those whose hands failed to be raised unquestioningly at his sketchy outlines of his deals.

Reports of his decline have proved premature, but money could be his downfall. In August

a \$1 billion bid from IMG and Bertelsmann was made for TV rights to the 2002 World Cup.

Chung says even that is not enough. "We should aim at twice that amount: the marketing and TV rights for 2002 is worth \$2 billion. That is more than 20 times the amount achieved for USA '94."

Furthermore, backing Johansson's "Vision" document calling on FIFA to adopt on a change in constitution to rotate World Cup among the confederations, Chung repeated that South Korea would pledge all host country profits from a World Cup — which he says could exceed \$300 million — to football.

Chung's political and industrial ambitions in Korea preclude any attempt by him to seek FIFA's presidency, but with three of the five continents demanding support, I suspect Chung would support any candidature of, for example, Johansson.

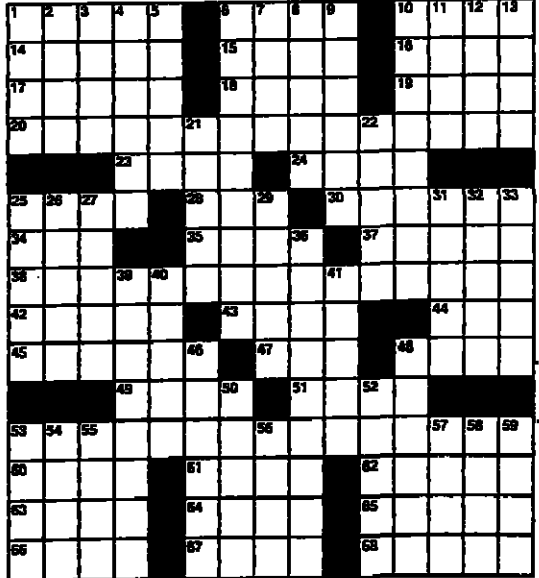
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 — chart (horoscope)
6 Soviet news agency
8 Stanley and Davis, e.g.

14 Wear away
15 Killer whale
16 Sound lower than a flute
17 Kind of thread
18 Pattered

19 Tenant's burden
20 1950's science fiction film
21 1984-88 Olympic track star
22 "Foxy" ways
23 Domingo solo
24 Vista
25 Rat trap?
26 Dress (up)
27 National Review pieces
28 Saucer, maybe
29 Dumbo features
30 Creepy
31 1950's science fiction film
32 Public meeting
33 Portico
34 Dock workers' grp
35 Animated dances
36 Domain of Minerva
37 Ancient Iranian
38 Gets
39 Buster Brown's dog
40 1950's science fiction film
41 Hypochondriac's complaint
42 Toward shelter
43 Cardiologist's concern
44 Flightless bird
45 Gobs
46 Characteristic
47 Sondheim's "Sweeney"
48 Revise
49 Harmonizes, as watch times

2 Mischievous
3 Across Spelling
4 "Fideles"
5 1984-88 Olympic track star
6 "Foxy" ways
7 Domingo solo
8 Vista
9 Moving seat
10 1942 U.S. naval victory site
11 Above, in Abeneberg
12 "Fidèle" cheese
13 Author Kantor
14 Filled
15 Support for the arts
16 1942 U.S. naval victory site
17 Above, in Abeneberg
18 "Fidèle" cheese
19 Author Kantor
20 Filled
21 Support for the arts
22 Miss Garbo
23 Palmer, to friends
24 Stockbroker's statistic
25 Britches
26 Making the most haughty sounds
27 Young fellow
28 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame architect
29 Surtanning site
30 Treaty ratifier
31 Dell's "The Persistence of"
32 Type of fork or bar
33 Winged pests
34 Old Dodge
35 Pinner for Narcissus
36 Toolhouse



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Solution to Puzzle of Oct. 24

CHARM BOP SLID
LARRY AURA HATE
BOEST SCAN IVAN
TRASHY NOVELS
BASICS REEL RYE
DEL CHO DREI
EGGS OLE ANKLE
JUNKFOOD JUNKIES
ANEAR HEN STIF
TUFF EUN STA
BBB DIE FRISKY
GARBAGE TRUCK
GLUE ALLE EARLE
EMIT RELY STOIC
DYNE ORES TEMPO

Canadiens Win Again, Ending the Kings' Streak

Reuters

MONTREAL — The revamped Montreal Canadiens continued their upswing and handed the Los Angeles Kings their first loss of the season, 6-3. It was also the Kings' first loss under coach Larry Robinson, a former Canadian.

Pierre Turgeon and Saku Koivu each

scored two goals, and Patrick Roy stopped 32 shots for the Canadiens to seal the second victory in as many games for their new coach, Mario Tremblay.

Tremblay said: "I had a private talk with Saku Koivu this morning, and look at what a performance he had."

For Koivu, Montreal's first pick in the

1993 draft, the goals were the first of his NHL career.

Mighty Ducks 1, Avalanche 3: At Colorado, Valeri Kanensky had a goal and an assist in a three-goal first period as the Colorado Avalanche remained unbeaten at home with a 3-1 victory over the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim.

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OBSERVER

Sharing the Loot

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — From out here in the boondocks, today's Washington seems bizarre. Did you catch the American Medical Association selling Newt Gingrich its vote on Medicare?

The AMA — that's the doctors' lobby — came along quietly after Gingrich promised to go easy on cutting Medicare fees for doctors and grant other financial benefits.

And so what? Nobody familiar with the AMA expects anything of it but an obsession with money for doctors. But lo, behold, and how about that, sawbones fans! — the AMA is offended by suggestions that Gingrich bought it.

Gingrich is redistributing the wealth. It is only natural that everybody with a high-powered job — even doctors, noble offspring of Hippocrates though they be — should fight for a share of the loot.

The spectacle of these huge struggling lobbies summons up memories of "The Last Train From Madrid," or the last helicopter from the embassy roof in Saigon. Lobbies exist to behave swinishly for themselves. Unlike the AMA, most lobbies are too worldly to whine when someone notices their snouts in the trough lapping up the slops.

The sugar lobby has escaped a cut in its infamous sugar subsidy. The tobacco lobby still prospers even as the government spends money to control tobacco-related diseases. The farm lobby is apparently untouched despite, or maybe because of, the fact that a high percentage of farm subsidies now go to giant agribusiness corporations.

It is unmanly these days to

express dismay for the Republican plan to use life's losers to balance the budget.

From out in the sticks though, where all we know is what we read in the papers, it seems nutty that Republicans should be so zealous to put the boot into widows and orphans, the halt and the lame as it were, while excusing doctors, Tobacco World and assorted other farm corporations from putting shoulders to the wheel. Isn't this a patriotic endeavor to save the economy?

Gingrich is not the only man here who seems deep in fantasy. How about Mister President? Bill Clinton. He's a Democrat, whatever that means, besides brain-dead.

Newspapers report Democrats are simply refusing the party en masse. "Like rats from a sinking ship" is the cliché. Besides those Democrats who are simply refusing to run for reelection, there are Democrats who hate being Democrats but can't bear the thought of going off the federal payroll. These Democrats come from the old solid Democratic South which has now become the new solid Republican South. Simple wizardry turns them into instant Republicans with safe, dry berths on an unsinking ship.

Speaking of fantasy, how would you like to see President Clinton run against the Democratic Party next year? Congressional Democrats think that's what he had in mind when, talking to a Houston money crowd, he seemed to blame Democrats for high taxes.

With the party melting away from under him, who knows? He might turn Republican himself. He runs better in the polls than any of the Republican candidates. This would clear the way for Colin Powell to run as a Democrat and return the party to life.

New York Times Service

At 83, an Ailing Antonioni's Unexpected Return

By Bernard Weinraub
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — A stroke felled Michelangelo Antonioni in 1985, leaving him virtually unable to speak. In the years that followed, Antonioni, one of the world's foremost filmmakers, sank into despair.

"He once said, 'To direct is to live,'" his wife, Enrica Antonioni, said during a recent conversation in their cottage at the Sunset Marquis Hotel in West Hollywood. "After the stroke, he was so bored, so unhappy. He's a man of enormous energy, and there was nothing for him but emptiness."

But the 83-year-old Italian director's enthusiasm has been revived, largely through the efforts of Mrs. Antonioni, 42, and several French producers to bring him back to a film set.

The result is "Beyond the Clouds," a new film based on his own writings. Antonioni was also the subject of a series of recent events in Los Angeles sponsored by the American Film Institute, which with heavy support from the entertainment industry educates and honors filmmakers.

Antonioni has often been called a visionary, a filmmaker whose enigmatic depictions of urban alienation and emotional paralysis in such works as "L'Avventura," "La Notte," "Blow Up," and "Zabriskie Point" made him especially prescient in the 1960s and 1970s, although some critics, including Pauline Kael, criticized him for his vagueness and confusion. This year he received an honorary Academy Award for lifetime achievement. The Oscar was presented by Jack Nicholson, who starred in "The Passenger" in 1975.

The new film, based on Antonioni's journals and a short story collection called "Bowling Alley on the Tiber," deals with the sorts of tangled relationships that have always been a theme in his work. The cast includes Fanny Ardant, Sophie Marceau, Jeanne Moreau, Jeremy Irons, John Malkovich and Marcello Mastroianni. It has not yet found an American distributor.

What makes the film notable, of course, is that Antonioni directed it in the first place. His French producer, Stéphane Tchalgadjeff, who helped raise money for the \$9 million production, said he was initially terrified at the prospect of making a film with the aging and ailing director.

"In the beginning I was holding my breath," said Tchalgadjeff, who was visiting the Antonionis in Hollywood. "I kept thinking, is this the Titanic? Will it sink?" His comment drew a loud laugh from Mrs. Antonioni and a smile from her husband.

Insurance companies refused to guarantee the project because of Antonioni's health, and the producers hired Wim Wenders, the German director, as a standby.

"We felt a certain amount of the film would be covered by Wim," said the producer. "But from the very first day, when we tried to interfere, we got a very angry Antonioni on our hands. He was full of rage that we would interfere. He excluded any proposals. It became a totally Antonioni film. Wim decided to stay on the set because he became so fascinated. He became like a spiritual son."

How Antonioni directed the film while able to speak only a few words is a testament mostly to his wife, an outgoing woman who treats her husband like anything but an invalid. She cajoles him, laughs with him, gets impatient with him, embraces him.

Mrs. Antonioni herself made a moving documentary about her husband and the filming of "Beyond the Clouds" that was screened here over the weekend. The movie, "Making a Film for Me Is Living," was shown as part of the American Film Institute's 1995 International Film Festival, which began Friday night.

Mrs. Antonioni met her husband in 1971 after she graduated from art school in Milan and went to Rome to look for a job. A painter friend who knew the director arranged a meeting. "We first met in a café," she said. "We started immediately our relationship."

Dapper in a tweed jacket, Anto-



Michelangelo Antonioni with his wife, Enrica, in West Hollywood.

mioni sat beside her on a sofa, his eyes alert as he listened. As his wife responded to questions, he nodded vigorously in agreement or shook his head, uttering a word or two in Italian and occasionally lifting a pad to sketch quickly each a picture describing an actor or another filmmaker. Before the stroke, he understood English, but now his comprehension is gone.

Yet "his sense of vision for the film was clear, amazingly clear," said Tchalgadjeff.

In the pre-production phase, Antonioni privately worked out detailed camera setups for each scene. Once filming began, he watched the actors on video monitors, gesturing and conveying in a word or two or drawing on paper what he wanted. He focused far less on dialogue than on the way the

actors moved and looked in each frame.

"He has an absolute sense of color, of perspective, of the architecture of each frame," Tchalgadjeff said. Crucial members of the film team, including the editor and technicians, had worked with Antonioni in the 1970s. (His last film, "Identification of a Woman," made in 1982, has never been released in the United States.)

Also visiting Antonioni the other day was Seymour Chatman, a friend who has written extensively about his work and teaches at the University of California at Berkeley.

The two men laughingly agreed that the director's methods and style, including the way he deals with actors, had not been changed much by his stroke.

"He never said much to actors in the first place, and it used to especially drive American actors crazy who weren't used to directors like him," Chatman said. "He'd say, it's better that actors don't need to understand anything. Dialogue is always secondary to him anyway. He always sees films as visual compositions."

Mrs. Antonioni agreed. "Michelangelo says, 'How can an actor understand how he looks in a frame?'" she said. "The director understands, not the actor."

Antonioni nodded when asked if he wanted to continue directing. His wife said that several projects were under discussion but that they depended on her husband's health.

Antonioni's classic films were often bleak and beautiful women (Monica Vitti is perhaps the best-known) in various stages of malaise.

Is he a sad man? His wife burst out laughing. "Michelangelo, sad? He's the opposite of sadness and darkness. Our apartment is so light you need sunglasses. He's actually full of humor."

"What Michelangelo always says is that he's not a protagonist but a witness," she said. "He conveys what he sees. He sees sadness, but he's so full of life."

WEATHER

Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by Accu-Weather.

| Europe | Today | High | Low | Tomorrow | High | Low | Day After | High | Low |
|--------------|-------|-------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----------|-------|-----|
| Algeria | 22/27 | 17/22 | 10 | 24/27 | 17/22 | 10 | 24/27 | 17/22 | 10 |
| Amsterdam | 13/25 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Athens | 19/21 | 16/11 | 8 | 18/25 | 14/17 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Berlin | 15/20 | 10/11 | 8 | 18/23 | 14/17 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Bombay | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Buenos Aires | 18/26 | 14/11 | 8 | 21/27 | 17/22 | 10 | 24/27 | 17/22 | 10 |
| Calcutta | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Chennai | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Colombo | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Columbo | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Cyprus | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Dhaka | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Dubai | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Edinburgh | 11/20 | 10/10 | 8 | 13/20 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 |
| Frankfurt | 13/25 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Geneva | 13/25 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Hamburg | 13/25 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Helsinki | 11/20 | 10/10 | 8 | 13/20 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 |
| Istanbul | 19/21 | 16/11 | 8 | 18/25 | 14/17 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| London | 13/25 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Madrid | 19/21 | 16/11 | 8 | 18/25 | 14/17 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Moscow | 13/25 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Mumbai | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Nairobi | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Paris | 13/25 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Rangoon | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Riyadh | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Singapore | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Sri Lanka | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Taipei | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Tokyo | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Yokohama | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |

North America
New York City and Washington, D.C., will have dry weather with near normal temperatures later this week. A spell of rain over the weekend. Toronto and Chicago will be dry and mild. Dry weather will spread from west to east Friday into Saturday. The West Coast will be mainly dry.

| Asia | Today | High | Low | Tomorrow | High | Low | Day After | High | Low |
|-----------|-------|-------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----------|-------|-----|
| Beijing | 22/27 | 17/22 | 10 | 24/27 | 17/22 | 10 | 24/27 | 17/22 | 10 |
| Bombay | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Calcutta | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Chennai | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Columbo | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Dhaka | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Dubai | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Edinburgh | 11/20 | 10/10 | 8 | 13/20 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 |
| Frankfurt | 13/25 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Geneva | 13/25 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Hamburg | 13/25 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Helsinki | 11/20 | 10/10 | 8 | 13/20 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 |
| Istanbul | 19/21 | 16/11 | 8 | 18/25 | 14/17 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| London | 13/25 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Madrid | 19/21 | 16/11 | 8 | 18/25 | 14/17 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Moscow | 13/25 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Mumbai | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Nairobi | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Paris | 13/25 | 9/16 | 8 | 16/21 | 12/13 | 8 | 19/24 | 15/16 | 8 |
| Rangoon | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Riyadh | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Singapore | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Sri Lanka | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Taipei | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Tokyo | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |
| Yokohama | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 | 27/30 | 23/26 | 20 | 28/30 | 24/27 | 20 |

Legend: heavy, p, partly cloudy; c, cloudy; s, showers; w, showers; v, very; a, all; f, fair; m, mostly; n, no; w, weather. All times, forecasts and data provided by Accu-Weather, Inc. © 1995

PEOPLE

A MANUSCRIPT, "Bacchus or the Game of suffering and hope," written by Jean-Paul Sartre while at a German prison camp in Trier in 1940 fetched \$3,500 francs (\$10,700) at an auction in Dieppe, France. Sartre gave the 40-page manuscript to a friend, a fellow prisoner Marc Benard, a journalist.

The actress Sharon Stone has received France's highest artistic honor, the order of the Chevalier of Arts and Letters. Philippe Douste-Blazy, the French minister of culture, in presenting her with the award, praised the heroine of "Basic Instinct" as "the absolute star" and thanked her for "making daily life look a bit less routine."

Japan's highest cultural award, the Order of Culture, will be awarded this year to the novelist Shūsaku Endō, 72; the former Supreme Court judge, Shigemitsu Dando 81; the artist Tadashi Saji, 81; the Western economic history researcher Shiro Masuda, 87, and the virus researcher



Sharon Stone gets French award.

Hidesaburo Hanafusa, 65, the government announced.

She has already celebrated her birthday in

London, but more than 600 guests still paid \$1,000 each to celebrate Margaret Thatcher's 70th birthday in Washington. In response, the former British prime minister spoke of her friendship with the United States and particularly with Ronald Reagan. The guest list was a who's who of conservative faithful: House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Senator Phil Gramm, Senator Jesse Helms, the actor Charlton Heston, the former defense secretary, Caspar Weinberger, the former U.S. ambassador to the UN, Jeane Kirkpatrick, and Nancy Reagan.

Louis Farrakhan has been trying to sell his autobiography to New York publishers for \$5 million. The book is being written with Nathan McCall, a best-selling author. Denise Stinson, literary agent for Farrakhan, reportedly had tried to sell the book idea early this month to Random House. Random House, however, turned the idea down. "I'm sure it would be an interesting biography," said Harold Evans, president of Random House. "But we did not want to run the risk of publishing anything that might be construed as hate speech."

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